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WESTERN 1741-1834. WARREN 1834-1891,

MASSACHUSETTS.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE

TOWN OF WARREN,

SEPTEMBER 7, 1891,

INCLUDING

THE FOUNDING AND GROWTH OF A NEW-ENGLAND TOWN,

A Review

By Hon. SOLOMON B. STEBBINS

OF BOSTON.

CHAS. W. EDDY,

Printer,

WARE, MASS.

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Stebbins, Solomon Bliss, 1830–

Western 1741–1834. Warren 1834–1891. Massachusetts. An account of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Warren, September 7, 1891, including the founding and growth of a New-England town, a review by Hon. Solomon B. Stebbins ... ~~Boston, Press of N. Sawyer & son, 1891~~ Ware, Eddy, 1891.

SHELF CARD

72 p. front., fold. map. 25cm.

1. Warren, Mass.—Hist.

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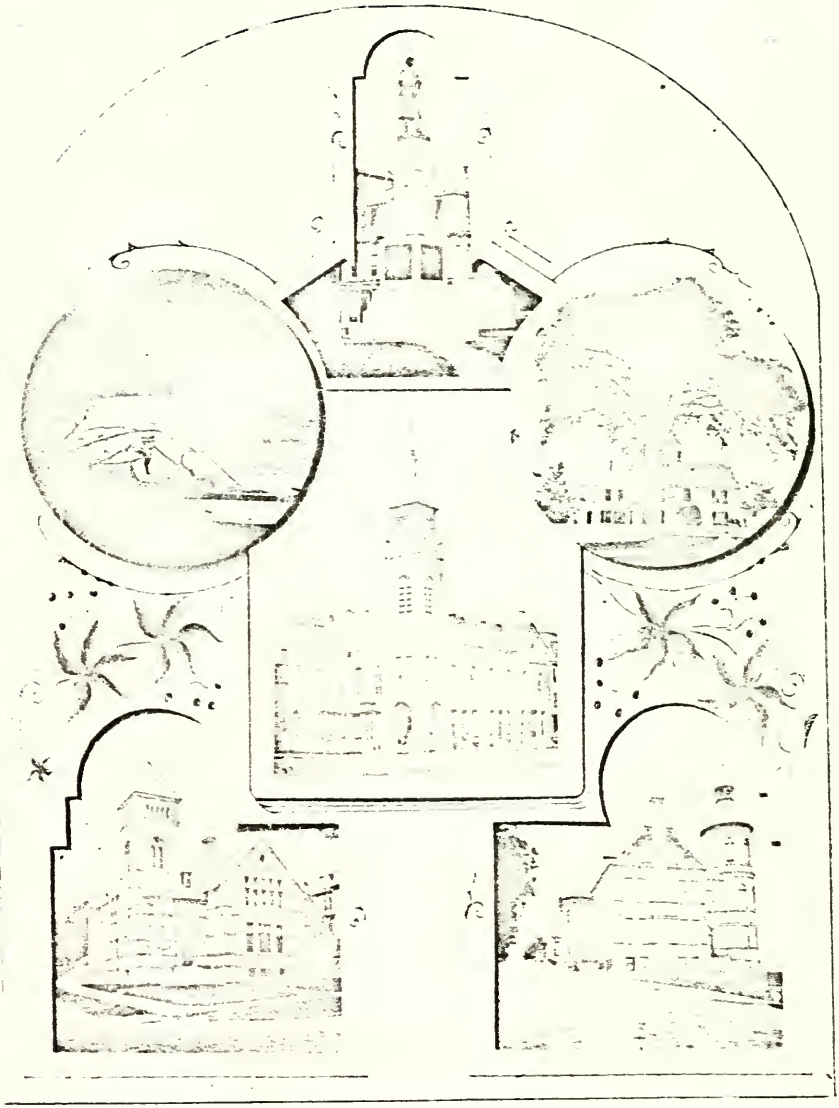

"*Those wards called townships in New England are the vital principle of their governments, and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government, and for its preservation.*"

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

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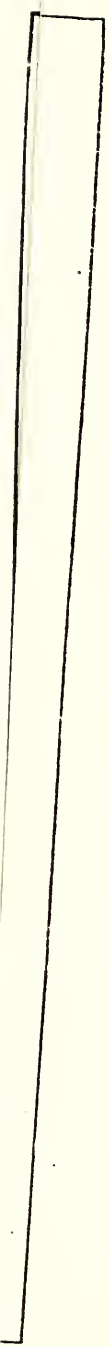
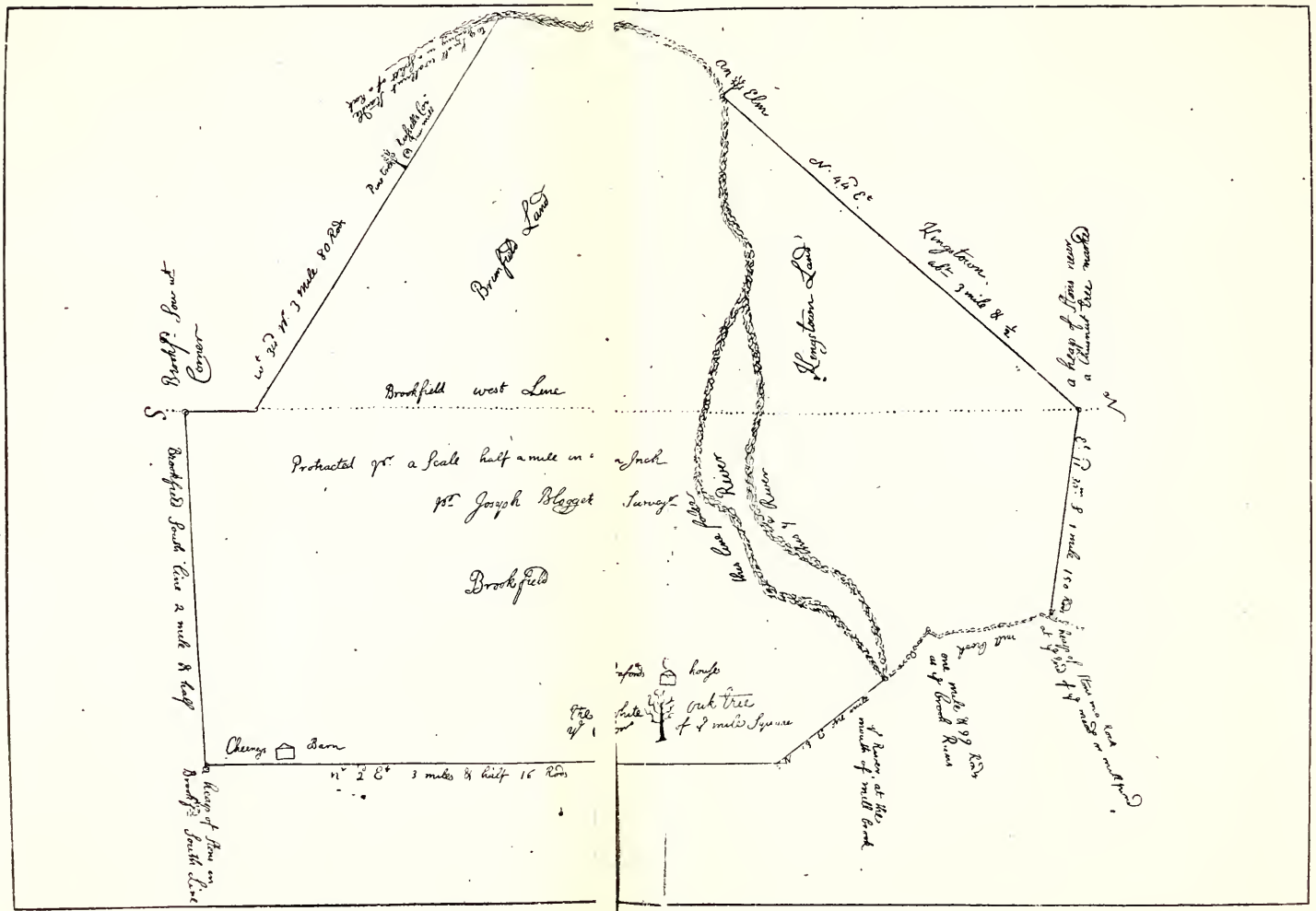
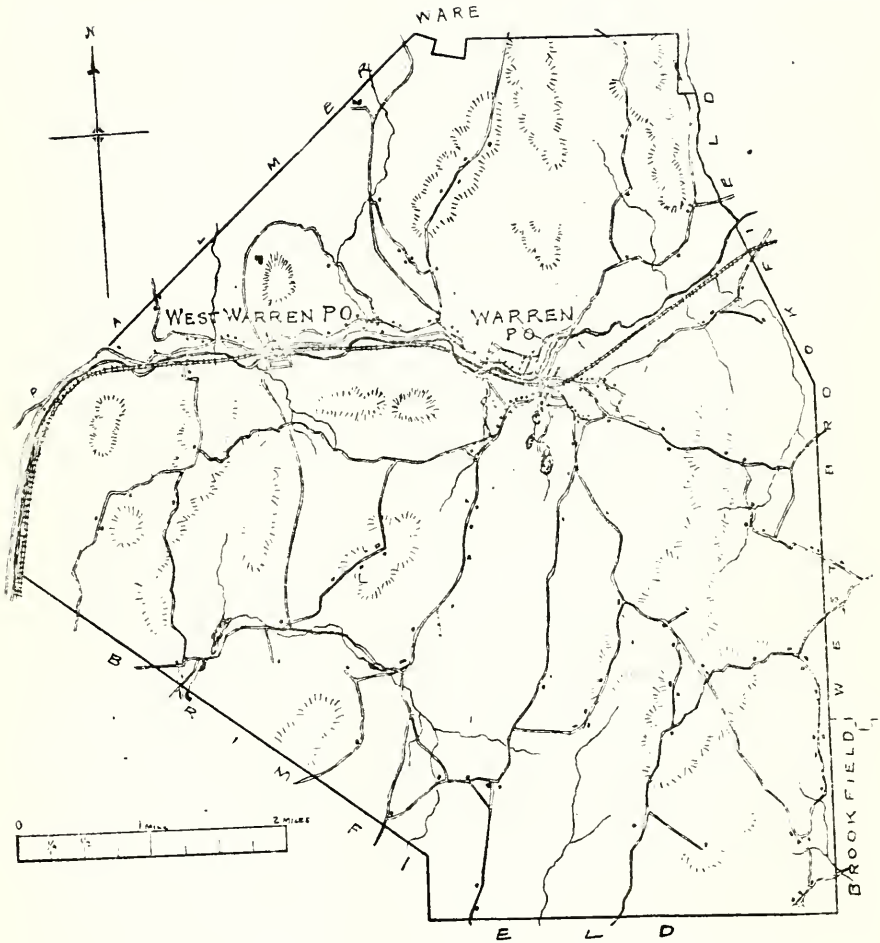




MAP OF THE PROPOSED NEW TOWN O[F] WESTERN; WORCESTER COUNTY, DECEMBER 16, 1740.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WARREN'S CELEBRATION.

AT the Annual Town Meeting held in Warren (Mass.), April 7, 1890, Mr. Harlan P. Bliss moved that "the town observe the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation; that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be raised and appropriated for the expenses of the occasion; and that the chair appoint a committee of five to carry into effect the foregoing resolves, and make all necessary arrangements." This motion, having been made under an article inserted in the town warrant by the Selectmen at the request of Mr. Bliss, was put to vote and carried unanimously, and the chair appointed as a committee, Mr. Harlan P. Bliss, Rev. David Moyes, Mr. C. O. Walker, Rev. Putnam Webber, Rev. O. I. Darling.

The gentlemen above named met June 4th, and organized by choosing Mr. Bliss Chairman, and Rev. Mr. Darling Secretary. At this meeting a canvass was made for Orator of the Day, and the Chairman and Secretary were authorized to confer with Hon. Solomon B. Stebbins of Boston (a native of Warren).

On March 17, 1891, the Committee met and reported that Mr. Stebbins would deliver the address if the celebration could be deferred to Labor Day (September 7th). This date was

agreed upon, and the following persons were requested to serve on sub-committees and otherwise: —

Toast Master. — Mr. D. W. Shepard. (Mr. Shepard declining, his place was filled by Dr. J. W. Hastings.)

Committee on Music. — Miss Ella M. Wentworth, Mr. Herbert A. Messinger, Mr. C. O. Walker.

Committee on Decorations. — Mr. George L. Butler, Mr. Henry S. Howe, Mrs. Maude N. Aborn, Mr. F. J. DeLuce, Mr. William S. Tisdale.

Committee on Relics and Antiquities. — Mrs. Julia M. Hitchcock, Mr. Herbert Carpenter, Mrs. Mary M. Richardson, Mrs. Ida C. Marsh, Mr. J. E. Lombard, Mr. Chas. D. Keyes.

Committee on Printing and Invitations. — Mr. Daniel G. Hitchcock, Mrs. Lottie E. Demond, Mr. George P. Aborn.

Due preparations having been made by these committees, an invitation in the following form was sent to all natives and former residents of the town whose names and addresses could be obtained: —

Warren, Mass., August 10, 1891.

The Committee on Invitations requests the presence of natives of the town, former residents and their descendants, at the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Warren, Massachusetts, September seventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

Public exercises at 10.30 A.M. in the
Congregational Church.
Dinner at 1.30 P.M. in the Town Hall.

Special invitations were also sent to the Governor of the Commonwealth, to the two United States Senators, to our State Senator and Representatives

from this district, also to the Chairman of Selectmen of the towns of Palmer, Ware, Brookfield, West Brookfield, and Brimfield, and to ex-Representative George K. Tufts, Esq., of New Braintree, and Jesse Allen, Esq., of Oakham, who assisted in passing the Act which was found necessary to enable the town to appropriate money for its anniversary. Senator Haggerty was also instrumental in securing a reconsideration of this matter in the Senate after it had once been negatived.

The morning of the anniversary began with clouds and rain, but promptly at seven o'clock the day was ushered in by the ringing of all the bells in the two villages of Warren and West Warren, the whistle of the Knowles Steam Pump Works joining in the salute.

Across the main street, between the Town Hall and church where the oration was to be delivered, two huge flags were suspended, having between them a gauze banner inscribed with the names "Western" and "Warren," and the dates of incorporation and change of name.

A park concert by the Warren Cornet Band was given in the Pavilion at nine o'clock, at which time the loan collection of relics and antiquities at G. A. R. Hall was opened for one hour. At half-past ten the exercises at the Congregational Church were to begin; and, despite the rain which still continued to fall, though not as heavily as at first, the building was crowded with an audience

composed of townspeople, old residents, and distinguished guests. Handsome souvenir programmes were distributed to all present, a copy being given below: —

PROGRAM OF THE DAY.

RINGING OF TOWN BELLS, at 7 A. M.

PARK CONCERT BY WARREN CORNET BAND, at 9 A. M.

EXERCISES IN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, at 10.30 A. M.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

1. ORGAN PRELUDE, Coronation March, *Meyerbeer.*
   HERBERT A. MESSINGER.
2. FESTIVAL HYMN (*Buck*), ANNIVERSARY CHORUS.
3. SCRIPTURE READING, REV. PUTNAM WEBBER.
4. PRAYER, REV. D. OLIN CLARK.
5. HAIL, FESTAL DAY (*Rossini*), ANNIVERSARY CHORUS.
6. ADDRESS OF WELCOME, CHAIRMAN ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE.
   HARLAN P. BLISS.
7. ADDRESS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE ORATOR OF THE DAY.
   REV. OLNEY I. DARLING.
8. HISTORICAL ADDRESS, HON. SOLOMON B. STEBBINS.
9. TO THEE, O COUNTRY (*Eichberg*), ANNIVERSARY CHORUS.
10. POEM, MISS NELLIE M. COMINS.
11. ANNIVERSARY HYMN (Original), TUNE, DUKE STREET.

    For life and health and daily bread,
      The common blessings full and free
    Along our path like sunshine shed,
      Father, accept our thanks to thee.

    And darker days and grayer skies
      We know conceal thy loving face;
    For all thy gifts our songs shall rise,
      Like incense, in this sacred place.

    From out the past thy mercies shine
      To show thy future blessings sure;
    Father, we know that light divine
      To endless ages shall endure.

    Let organ peal and human voice
      Pour forth their praise to Him above,
    While Nature cries, "Rejoice, rejoice!
      Now and forever God is Love."

12. BENEDICTION, REV. HARRIS G. HALE.

DINNER AT TOWN HALL, at 1.30 P. M., followed by toasts and speeches by citizens, former residents, and distinguished guests.

Music, Messinger's Orchestra.

THE LOAN COLLECTION OF RELICS AND ANTIQUITIES, open to the public at G. A. R. Hall, 9 to 10 A. M., and 12.30 to 1.30 and 4 to 6 P. M.

PARK CONCERT BY WEST WARREN CORNET BAND, at 7 P.M.

ILLUMINATION AND FIREWORKS, at 8 P. M.

The oration by Hon. Solomon B. Stebbins was as follows: —

THE FOUNDING AND GROWTH OF A NEW-ENGLAND TOMN.

In the history of communities, as in the lives of individuals, there come periods when the sons and daughters are invited home to celebrate some golden anniversary. Thrice golden is the event which the citizens of this town in their corporate capacity have met to commemorate. With greetings royal we are welcomed home to renew the friendships of the olden days. With hearts made tender by your welcome and by the memories of the past, we join with you in celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of a New-England town.

A careful observer of American forms of government, Alexis de Tocqueville, has said of the New-England township that "it was the nucleus round which the local interests, rights, and duties so collected and clung that it gave scope to the

activities of a thoroughly democratic and republican life. Its local assemblies of freemen — the town meetings — were to liberty what primary schools are to science: they brought it within the people's reach; they taught men how to use and enjoy it; and even while the American colonies still recognized the supremacy of the mother country, the republic was already established in every township."

It is the birthday of such a township that we meet to celebrate. Your committee of arrangements have honored me with the grateful task of gathering up for this family reunion such facts of interest as the scanty records of the past may furnish or household traditions may have treasured.

It is not my purpose, however, in the hour I shall detain you, to attempt an elaborate historical review of the events attending the growth of the town, but rather to summon before you the early fathers, and let them, in the quaint language of their records, tell how they founded a town to secure local civil government and religious worship, made provision for education, and contributed of their lives and substance in the heroic period which established the independence of the colonies.

EARLY HISTORY.

The territory of the town covers about six square miles, and was taken from the towns of Brookfield

and Brimfield, and from a tract of land known as Kingsfield or the Elbows, which afterwards formed the town of Palmer. It is known that the locality, from its ample hunting and fishing grounds, was a favorite resort and dwelling-place of the red men. Interesting vestiges of the aboriginals have been discovered from time to time, many of which have been preserved, and, by the courtesy of the committee having charge of the collection, will, with other relics and antiquities, be exhibited to-day.

The first known white settler within the limits of the town was Solomon Keyes, in 1731. Other settlers soon followed, bearing the names of Read, Patrick, Ashley, Brown, Blair, Makepeace, Jones, Combs, Sheperd, Putnam, Beal, Dwight, Rice, Hayward, Chadwick, Parsons, Bliss, Davis, Gleason, Cutler, Lincoln.

Of the descendants of these early settlers, some still reside in the town and honor us by their presence to-day. The population of the district had so increased that in 1740 measures were taken to secure authority to form a town government.

On June 12 of that year, Noah Ashley and a considerable number of others presented a petition to the General Court setting forth their great distance from the places of public worship, and that they had supported a minister among them for some time, and therefore praying that they might be set off and erected into a separate township.

Upon this petition it was ordered "that the petitioners serve a copy of the petition upon the towns interested, and for the towns to show cause why the same should not be granted."

On the 25th of August of the same year, as it appeared that the towns had been served with copies of the petition, and that answer had been received from the town of Brimfield only, it was ordered "that Joseph Wilder and William Lyon be a committee to repair to the places mentioned and view and report."

This committee subsequently reported: —

Pursuant to an order of the General Court, passed in August last, upon the Petition of Ephraim Hayward *et al.* Inhabitants of the westerly part of the Towns of Brookfield, and of Brimfield and Kingsfield, so called, we the subscribers have attended the service therein mentioned, viewed the Land petitioned for, considered the circumstances of the Petitioners, and heard the Parties concerned; and upon the whole are of the opinion that the Land, together with the Inhabitants thereon, described in a Plan herewith presented, be set off and erected into a separate and distinct township, to lie in the County of Worcester. But inasmuch as the new Projected Town comes to the river in the County Road, where there is a Bridge called Market Bridge over said river, — That the said New Town shall make and maintain the one half of said Bridge, and the town of Brookfield the other half.

JOSEPH WILDER,
WILLIAM LYON.

Consented to.

J. BELCHER, December 16, 1740.

Following the favorable report of the committee, the General Court, with the approval of the Governor, on the 16th of January, 1741, passed an Act incorporating the town of Western.*

This action was supplemented on the 19th of January by the passage of an order directing Noah Ashley, one of the principal inhabitants of the new township, to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said township to assemble and make choice of a town clerk and other town officers.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN GOVERNMENT.

In pursuance of this order, the first town meeting was held on March 8, 1741, when Noah Ashley was chosen moderator, Matthew Beal town clerk, and Solomon Keyes, Noah Ashley, Peter Rice, and Nathaniel Reed selectmen.

THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE.

With the town government thus organized, the people, in accordance with the almost universal practice of the New-England fathers, turned their attention to the erection of a meeting-house and the settlement of a minister.

In those early days the affairs of the church

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* In consequence of delays to letters, caused by the similarity of the name of the town to that of Weston, an older town in Middlesex County, the General Court, on March 13, 1834, in response to a petition authorized by the town, changed the name to "Warren," although a petition had been presented the previous year, from Thomas Damon and thirty-three others, asking that the name should be changed to "Homer."

were managed in town meeting, and a week after the organization of the town government a meeting was held "in order to agree upon a meeting-house spot." No definite conclusion having been reached, the town, at a meeting held in October of the following year, voted "some suitable place to meet in to hear preaching." It was also voted "to build a meeting-house 40 ft. square on Comeys Hill."

It was not until the following year that the meeting-house site was definitely fixed upon.

"At a meeting legally warned and held in Western ye 18th day of April, 1743, voted Lieut. Solo Keyes Moderator for said meeting — further voted ye sd meeting by adjournment to ye place called Comy hill and at ye place above mentioned called Comy hill on ye west side near the place called ye Stadd . . . namely on a napp of ground adjoyning to Comy hill . . . the particular spott is known by one chestnut tree on the west side of the napp and a little east of sd chestnutt tree there is two black oak staddles marked and the same spott att sd meeting by adjournment from ye Wido Howards House to this place and on this spott of ground and at this time voted this particular spott is & shall be the place for the meeting house to be built upon & here to remain."

The locality of the meeting-house having been determined, the more serious work of its erection was entered upon.

The town records at this time teem with votes relating to the material to be used in the construction of the new place of worship.

"At a town meeting held in Western May ye second 1743. . Voted Solo Keyes Moderator. Voted to build a meeting house. . Voted ye sd Meeting house should be built 45 feet in

length & 35 feet in breadth and 20½ feet between the sill & plate. And further voted to rase three hundred pounds tenor money to carry on said building. Further voted that Mr Noah Ashley Lieut Solo Keyes & David Blair be a comitee to order and manage the affairs in building the meeting house, to provide timber and slittwork and framing and drawing all ready to raise: Voted that ye Clapboards should be sawed quarter boards. Voted Thos Rich, Gershom Makepeace & Peter Rice be a committee to provide the clapboards, Boards, Shingles & Nails for sd House & to have them ready att ye spot heretofore voted. Further voted ye Nathan Reed with the com Keyes Ashley & Blair be impowered to sett a price on the work done by the day by the people in carrying on the building.

"Att a meeting in Western held ye 15 day of June 1743. Voted Solomon Keyes Moderator for sd meeting and further voted that Noah Ashley & Hezekiah Marks provide 20 spike polls in order to raise the meeting house & further voted that Solomon Keyes & Noah Ashley provide provisions and drink & voted sd Keyes and Ashley thirty pounds old tenor to be paid by a rate for sd provisions & drink for raising of the meeting house & voted to raise the meeting house on the place whare the timber now lyeth & further voted att sd meeting that Mr Noah Ashley should have the privilige of setting the meeting house to face the south drawing or moveing the sills six feet north or west as hee thinks best: His allowing the town eight pounds out of his bilding for the raising. August ye 26 day 1743. Att a meeting held in Western. Voted Gersham Makepeace Moderator for said meeting. Voted to chuse comity to inclose the meeting house on the outside and lay down the under flore. Voted Lieut Solomon Keyes & Noah Ashley & Nathl Reed to be a comity to gitt sd work done & also winder frames and to have sash glass sett in woods for the meeting house."

Services were held in the new building in about a year after its commencement, although pulpit and pews were not built till two years later, and the whole work was not fully completed for many years.

The assignment of the seats of the meeting-house, which took place upon the completion of the building, was considered in those early days an important matter, requiring the services of the ablest men of the town properly to "dignify" the seats and pews. On May 23, 1748, in town meeting, it was

"Voted to chose a comittee to seat the body of seats and Pew ground. Voted Dea Bliss to be a comittee man. Dea Straton also in the same. Noah Ashley, Solomon Keyes, Peter Rice, David Blair, Gershom Makepeace, James Whitcomb, Ephraim Hayward, Nathll Reed, Thomas Rich. Voted that the comittee observe these three rules namely age of persons, secondly the list from the time that the meeting house was built also the quallity of persons in seating the pews and body of seats above said. Voted further that when the comittee above sd have so setled the pews, that the men seated in the pews have forever and so entiteled to them. They there doing there proportionable part of the charge of finishing the sd pews and sids of the meeting house up to the girt also the galary stairs, each mans pew to pay the same equill charge of the whole charge above sd charge. Voted to dismiss the meeting. Jershom Makepeace Moderator."

The singers of the meeting-house also engaged the attention of the town more than a hundred years ago, when in town meeting it was solemnly "voted & granted to the singers in the town seats to sing in, and that it should be the two hind seats each side of the broad ally below in the body seats and that they should be made into two long pews, and it is expected that they will attend their duty in that part of worship."

THE FIRST MINISTER.

With the meeting-house made sufficiently ready for occupation, the town sought anxiously for a minister, and on July 9, 1744, a town meeting was held, "in order to see whether the town will agree to keep a day of fasting and prayer to God for direction in calling a suitable person to the work of the ministry."

After a careful consideration of the subject, the town voted to observe Thursday, July 19th, as such a day, and a committee was appointed to secure the attendance of six ministers from neighboring churches to assist the people of the town in the solemn work before them. The result of the deliberations was expressed at a town meeting held on the following day: —

"At a town meeting in Western on the 20th day of July 1744. To see whether the town will call Mr Isaac Jones to the work of the ministry in said town. Voted Capt Noah Ashley Moderator for said meeting. Voted to give Mr Isaac Jones a call to setel among us in the work of the ministry in the said town. Voted to setel the sd Mr Isaac Jones in the work of the ministry in the sd town according to the usage and Custom, respecting worthy dissipline and instruction of the established non conforming churches of New England. Voted to give Mr Isaac Jones one hundred and twenty five pounds lawful money for his setelment, the one half to be paid the said Mr Isaac Jones in one year after his ordination, and the other half in one year after the same. Voted to give Mr Isaac Jones thirty seven pounds, ten shillings lawful money for his Sallery for the first year after his ordination, and to add twenty five shillings lawful money, yearly after the first year

till it makes up fifty pounds lawful money, as a sallery for the said Mr Isaac Jones. Voted Mr Samuel Bliss, Gershom Makepeace and Thomas Rich to be a comitee to represent the call the town has made to the sd Mr Isaac Jones. Noah Ashley Moderator for sd meeting.

"Entered pr Matthew Beale Town Clerk."

Mr. Jones accepted the call of the town and was ordained in January, 1745, as the first minister of the first Congregational church in the new town, and continued in that relation until his death in 1784, a period of nearly forty years.

That he was a beloved pastor, and honored by the people he served so well, the memorial stone erected in the village burial-ground bears witness: —

"Sacred to the memory of the

REV. ISAAC JONES

who was almost forty years the faithful and affectionate pastor of Christ's Flock in this town. Employing at suitable times his lively powers in useful studies, in fervent prayer, in earnest preaching, in pathetic persuasion and improving discourse for the edification, comfort and salvation of his people. Supported by the religion which he had long practiced and preached he died in faith and hope July 31, 1784."

The ordination on Thursday last in this church of the Rev. Harris G. Hale, the fourteenth successor of the first minister in the town, and the memorial exercises of to-day, make this beautiful September month doubly interesting to the church and society worshipping here. I am sure that I express the feelings of this audience and of the

people of this town, of whatever creed, when I wish for the new pastor and his congregation a union as long and useful as that made memorable in the inscription on the tombstone of the first pastor in the old cemetery.

The relations of the Congregational society and town were closely identified until 1824, when the town refused to provide for the minister's salary, and a few years later, after controversy, relinquished all claim upon the meeting-house. The churches in the town at the present time are : the Congregational, already described; the Universalist, organized in 1815; the Methodist, organized in 1852; the Catholic, organized in 1872.

EDUCATION.

The early records of the town show that the people of the sparsely settled locality were not unmindful of the cause of education. On September 9, 1743, the town voted £40 for "scooling." On February 11, 1744, it was voted to hire two months' schooling. On November 4, 1745, it was voted to "bouild a scool house, and voted that sd house shall be twenty feet in length and seventeen feet in bredth and a dutch chimney att each end of sd house. And voted to hire three months schooling." On February 12, 1749, it was voted to build three schoolhouses, and on November 9th of the same year £80 was appropriated for schools.

Similar appropriations followed in succeeding years. During the later years of the town's history, the citizens, realizing that a good system of public education under proper supervision, with commodious and well-ventilated school-buildings, gives prestige to a town, have, with wise and liberal action, made ample provision for the education of their children. The High-School building, erected upon the site of the Quaboag Seminary, is worthy of especial mention, — not only for the higher course of education provided there, but also for the architectural fitness of the structure.

Of the 351 cities and towns in the State, Warren stands thirty-ninth in the percentage of taxable property appropriated for the support of public schools; while of the 59 cities and towns of Worcester County, Warren stands seventh in the like percentage, sixteenth in the average attendance, and nineteenth in the amount appropriated for each scholar.

Closely allied to the cause of education is the system of free public libraries throughout the State. The library of this town, founded and managed by an association of public-spirited citizens, affords special privileges to the children in the public schools. The library building, recently erected and handsome in its proportions, bears over its entrance the legend "Open to All."

THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

The controversy between Great Britain and her American colonies in the years immediately preceding the Revolution stirred the people of Massachusetts to a remarkable degree. It was here that the claim of the British Crown and Parliament of the right to impose a system of unjust taxation upon the colonies met with the most determined opposition. The port of the town of Boston had been closed, the people humiliated and reduced to want for their resistance to the oppressive and odious measures of Parliament.

It was then that the people, even while professing loyalty to their sovereign, became so enkindled with the love of liberty that every encroachment upon their rights only hastened the great struggle which resulted in American independence.

The records of the town during this eventful period reflect the highest honor upon the inhabitants. Among the important votes passed was that of January 17, 1774.

At a legal Town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Western the 17th day of January 1774. The inhabitants of said town takeing into consideration the plan or project of introduceing tea into the colinies by vertue of a late act of the Brittish Parliment to be disposed of by commissioners appointed by the East India Company subject to the payment of a duty in America, and other acts of the like nature, are of opinion that they are a very great infringement on their rights and priviliges and threaten them with bondage and Slavery. Therefore resolved that the disposal of their own property is the inherent

right of freemen and cannot be taken from them without their consent.

2 Resolved that the duty imposed by Parliment on tea landed in America, is a tax on the American without their consent, therefore unjust and unrighteous. 3 Resolved that it is their opinion that the said Parliment have as just a right to tax their houses, lands &c as to impose a duty on Tea payable in America, and if the duty on tea and other things of the same nature should be quietly submitted into. we have no reason to expect but that in a short time, our houses, lands, &c, will be taxed, which will reduce us to the greatest degree of bondage and slavery. 4 Resolved that it is the duty of every American, resolutely to oppose said plan and every other artifice of the like nature. 5 Resolved that we will not knowingly encourage or promote the consumtion of any such tea whatsoever subject to a duty in America but all persons who shall be concerned in the use of the same shall be viewed by us as enemies to there country and treated as such. 6 Loyalty and true allegiance to His Majesty King George the third. we heartily and sincerely profess and will yeald a chearfull and ready obedience to all just laws, and a hearty friendship with our mother country we wish may be continued till time shall be no more — but our just rights and priviliges for which our forefathers indured the greatest hardships and many of them sacrifised their lives, we cannot give up and submit to be Bondmen and slaves: but are determined to defend with the greatest vigor & resolution which is as we apprehend almost the universal sentiment of every freeman in America. The foregoing resolves being several times read in town meeting. the same was voted and accepted unanimously. Also voted that the above resolutions and proceedings of this town be recorded in the town book and a copy thereof be transmitted by the town clerk to the committee of corrispondence in Boston.

Recorded pr

Sim. Dwight Town Clerk.

Diligent must be the student of history to discover anywhere in the annals of the great struggle against the tyranny of the English government declarations more resolute or more patriotic.

Mark how in these resolves the early fathers of this town stated the underlying principles of the Declaration of American Independence. Pardon me if I seem to dwell upon and give importance to this period of the town's history. As I have read over and over her records during the years of the Revolution, my heart has been made to glow with love for my native town, and my mind filled with wonder that these early settlers, few in numbers, and struggling with difficulties common to the growth of new settlements, were able to devote so much of their all to the cause of liberty.

The year 1774 was one of great trial to the people of Massachusetts. The coercive enactments of Parliament, intended for their subjugation, aroused a more firm resolution, in the language of Warren, "to preserve their freedom or lose their lives in defence of it." The members of the General Court met in Concord, and, under the name of a Provincial Congress, prepared a plan for the defence of the province. Orders were issued for calling into service a body of men to be ready, *at a minute's warning*, to appear in arms.

The yeomen of this town had already anticipated this important action of the Provincial Congress: —

At a Town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Western, September 19, 1774. Made choise of Majr Makepeace, Capt James Stone, Dea. Solo Rich, Mr. John Patrick & Capt Putnam as a committee of correspondence. Also voted that there be a number of men raised to be at a minutes warning

to goe on any extriordinary emmergency. Also voted that if said men be called to serve that they shall be paid three shillings per day for one week they finding themselves if so long detained in service. Also voted that after the first week their wages be left to the descrition of the town. Also voted that Capt Putnam, Lieut Bascom & Lieut Keyes draught forty men which will accept said service. Also those men who received amunition of the town stock in the late alarm, return the same or that quantity.

Entered by

Sim Dwight Town Clerk.

All honor to the patriots of Warren!

The incoming of a new year found the people ready to meet in town meeting, and with the following good resolutions they observe the day: —

"At a legal Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the town of Western on Monday the 2nd day of January A. D. 1775. 1 Made choice of Simeon Dwight Moderator. 2 Voted to allow Major Makepeaces account of his attendance at the Provincial Congress being seven pounds one shilling. 3 Voted to allow said Makepeace twelve shillings for his attendance at the county congress. 4 Granted Majr Stone twelve shillings for his attendance at the county congress. 5 Voted that the towns money which was granted and assessed on the town as Province taxes for the years 1773 & ye year 1774 be paid to Henry Gardner Esq, appointed Receiver General to be paid to said Gardiner by the constables of said town & the towns committee. 6 Voted to indemifie the present Assessors for not making a return of the sums of money assessed and the names of the constables to whom it was committee to collect, to Harrison Gray, Esq former Treasurer. 7 Voted to accept and adhere to what the Continental Congress have recommended. 8 Voted to conform and strictly adhere to what the

Provincial Congress have recommended. 9 Voted that five men be chosen as a Committee of inspection to oversee our present affairs. 10 Made choice of Simeon Dwight one of said Committee.

"15 Voted that there be a donation collected for the Poor people of Boston & Charleston. 16 Voted to choose a committee to receive said donations. Made choice of Lieut Bascom, Dea Rich, Capt Putnam, Mr John Patrick & Lieut Reuben Read for said committee. Voted that said committee have liberty to dispose of what may be given as a donation if they can do it to the advantage of said poor & send them the effects. Also voted to adjourn the meeting to Monday the 16 day of this instant at one of the clock in the afternoon.

"23 Met according to adjournment. Made choice of Simeon Dwight to represent the town at the Provincial Congress to be held at Cambridge on the first day of February next &c.

"24 Voted to allow the minutemen a reward. 25 Voted to the minutemen ninepence for each half day three and a half hours to be accounted for half a day, for 16 half days to be spent in military exercises. 26 Voted to allow two commission officers one shilling & sixpence for half a day. Voted that the number of minutemen be thirty exclusive of said officers. 26 Voted that the said 16 half days be employed in military exercises before the first day of May next. 27 Voted that the said minutemen in order to intitle themselves to the above mentioned reward equip themselves with armes and amonition agreeable to the recommendation of the late Provincial Congress. 28 Voted that they equip themselves in three weeks and keep themselves so equipped. 29 Voted that Major Keyes, Lieut Reuben Read and Lieut Cyrus Rich be a committee to inlist said minutemen. 30 Voted that the said minutemen sign an inlistment agreeable to that agreed upon by the town of Northampton which is as followeth vi: We the subscribers, souldiers inlisted from the military company within the town of Western and organized into a company

called a minute company do solemly covenant & engage that we will as soon as possible be provided and equipt with an effective fire arm cartouch box or bullet pouch, thirty round of powder and ball & a knapsack and that we will exert our best abilities to acquire the art military, that we will yeild a ready obedience to the commands of our officers and hold ourselves in readiness to march up on the earliest notice from our commanding officers and hazard our lives in resisting any armed force that shall attempt by force to put into execution the late revenue acts for altering the Constitution of this Province, should any such attempt be made between this time and the first day of July next."

Events now rapidly culminate. Minute-men of the town are learning the art of war; while others, in the meeting-house, the village tavern, the stores and shops, discuss the justice of their cause, and await tidings from the committee of correspondence.

The winter passes away. The supreme moment, so anxiously waited for by the great leaders of the colonists in Massachusetts, is at hand. Will the people obey the call to arms? Will they die in defence of their rights?

On the 18th of April there flashed from the belfry of the old North Church in the beleaguered town of Boston the signal lights which gave warning of the movement of the British troops to capture the stores of the colonists at Concord. Then it was that messengers were despatched, not only to Concord, but throughout the colony, to alarm the inhabitants, and call out the minute-men.

"The fate of a nation was riding that night."

The story of the fight between the farmers of Lexington and Concord and the British troops, and the rapid gathering of the minute-men around Boston, is a familiar one.

> "In the books you have read
> How the British regulars fired and fled,
> How the farmers gave them ball for ball
> From behind each fence and farmyard wall."

The leaders of the colonists in Massachusetts had been answered, and the Revolution was begun.

The people of Warren welcomed the alarm of the midnight messenger bearing the news of the movement of the British troops. From the hills and valleys of the town the minute-men and many of the militia with their arms and equipments gathered for a forced march to Boston. One company, of forty-three men, under Captain Reuben Read, left on the 20th; and another company, of twenty-five men, under Captain Josiah Putnam, left on the following day. The terms of service of these men varied from five to twenty-five days. Many of them, however, re-enlisted and formed part of the town's quota on subsequent calls.

The union of the colonies and the calling into service of an armed force by the Continental Congress, in opposition to the enforcement of the oppressive Acts of the British Parliament, made necessary some declaration to the world by the

American people of their ultimate purpose in the great contest in which they were engaged.

Following the battle of Lexington and Concord and that of Bunker Hill, by various assemblies and conventions resolutions were considered looking to the severance of all allegiance to the British Crown.

Such action was taken by the General Court of Massachusetts in the following resolve, passed on May 10, 1776: —

"Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that the inhabitants of each town in the Colony ought, in full meeting warned for that purpose, to advise the person or persons who shall be chosen to represent them in the next General Court, whether that if the Honorable Congress should for the safety of these Colonies declare them independent of the kingdom of Great Britain, they, the said inhabitants, will solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the measure."

This little town of Warren, whose birth we honor to-day, was among the first to act upon this important resolve. On May 22d, in town meeting, it was "voted to agree in what the Continental Congress resolves to in declaring independence with Great Britain and will risk our lives and fortunes if called to it to defend our privilidges both of sivil and religious nature."

The records of the town during the whole Revolutionary period bear witness to the fidelity and devotion of the people in responding to the

calls made for the enlistment of soldiers and the furnishing of supplies for the Continental army: —

In 1775 there were 29 enlistments and re-enlistments; in 1777 there were 46 enlistments under Captain Jos. Cutler; in 1778 there were 13 enlistments and 9 drafted for nine months' service; in 1779 there were 4 enlistments, and 40 joined Captain Jos. Richardson's company for three months' service on the Hudson; in 1780 there were 20 enlistments; in 1781 there were 8 enlistments, and 8 others joined Captain Cutler's company for six months' service.

On November 25, 1777, the town voted "that the Standing Committee of Correspondence look up the order of the Great and General Court respecting the inhabitants of each town finding things necessary for the Continental soldiers wives at the stated prices and act agreeable thereto."

This vote was followed by a report from the selectmen and committee of correspondence, with a schedule of prices established by them as authorized by law: —

Western ye 4, 1777. We the subscribers Selectmen and Committee of corrispondence &c of the town of Western being impowered and directed by a certain law of this state of the Massachusetts Bay entitled an act to prevent monopoly and oppression, to aprise divers articles ennumerated in sd law in proportion to those sett in Boston and many others not therein innumerated have done the same in form and manner as followeth vis. Farming labor from the 20th June to the

20th August at 3s pr day, and at other seasons of the year in the usial proportion. Tradsmen and mechanecks, masons excepted. Masons at 3/8d pr day. Blacksmith work (vis) shoeing a hors all round with refined iron, steel corkd heal & toe 6/s. Shoeing as aforesaid with Bloom iron 5/4d. Plain shoeing all round with refined iron 4/8d. Plain shoeing all round with Bloom iron 4/. . For setting a shoe 4d and other smith work in the usial proportion. Felt hats made of good wool 6/8. Best Caster hatts 20s well made, and those of a meaner sort in that proportion. Good merchantable wheat at 6/ pr bushel. do Indian corn or meal at 3/ pr do. do Barley or unground malt at 3/6 pr bushel. do Oats at 1/9 pr bushel. Flaxseed clean and good at 6/ pr bushel. Good merchantable Sheeps wool at 2/ pr pound. Fresh pork good and well fatted at 4d pr pd. Salt pork middlings without bone 7d 2f pr pd. Best grass fed Beef at the rate of 22s pr hundred. Best stall fed Beef at 3d 2f pr pound. Raw hides at 3d pr pd. Raw calf skins at 6d pr pd. Taned Leather at 1/3d pr pd.* For taning sole Leather at 5d pr pd. For currying Leather in the usial proportion. Good imported Salt at 16s 6d pr bushel. do manufactured from sea water at 18s 6d pr bushel. Good west India Rum at 8s 3d pr gallon. Good west India Rum by the quart 2s 2d, and in the usial proportion for less quantities. Good New England Rum at 5s 1d pr gallon, and in the usial proportion for less quantities. A mug of flip or todde with ½ pt of west India Rum 11d. do do with do of New England Rum 9d. West India rum 1 gill at taverns 4d. New England rum 1 gill at taverns 3d. Oats by the 2 quarts or mess 3d. A good meal of boyled victuals 8d, and other meals in that proportion. Good inglish hay in sumer 1s 6d pr hundred. Good inglish hay in winter or spring 2s 6d. For keeping a horse at inglish hay one night 1s 2d. For keeping a pair of oxen at inglish hay one night 1s 8d. For keeping a horse by grass good feed one night or 24 hours 7d. For keeping a pair of oxen one night or 24 hours 10d. Molasses by the gallon at 4s 7d. Molasses in less quantities in the usial proportion. Best mascovado suger pr pd 8d ½f. Suger of the inferier quality in the usial proportion. Chocolat at 1s 8d 2f pr pd. Best cheese manufactoried in America pr pd 6d. Cheese of a meaner sort in proportion. Good butter pr pd 9d. Good butter pr the tub or firkin 8d pr

pd. Good Pees pr bushel 6s /. Good Beans pr bushel 6s. Pertadoes, spanish so called 1s pr bushel in the fall. do do in the spring 1s 6d. Good turnips in the fall 8d pr bushel. Best yarn Stockings at 6s pr pair. And those inferior in that proportion. Mens shoes, neats leather, best sort at 7s 6d, and those of an inferior quality in proportion. For making a pair of shoes, mens or womans 2s 6d. Price of womans shoes, best 6s pr pair, and those of a meaner quality in the same proportion. Good cotton wool at 3s 9d pr pd. Good flax, well dressed at 1s pr pd. Good coffee at 1s 5d pr pd. Good clean tryed taller at 8d pr pd. Toe cloath yd wide 2s 3d pr yd. And other toe cloath in that proportion accordingly to its wedgth and quality. And other coarse linings in proportion. Flanel striped yd wide of a good quality at 3s 6d and other flanels of a less wedgth and quality in that proportion. Best mutten Lamb and Veal at 2s 2d pr pd. Good axes manufactoried in America midling for bigness 8s. Good Scythes at 8s pr peace. And we earnestly reccommend it to Sadlers, weavers, Coopers, Taylors, and every tradesmen not before ennumerated to do their labour or sell their wares in the usial proportion to the prises which are sett on other articles, and we earnestly reccommend it to traders and all other persons, strictly to the afore mentioned law as they regard the good of their country and would avoid the penalty of the law.

SIMEON DWIGHT,
GERSHUM MAKEPEACE,
JAMES STONE,
NATHANIEL READ,
Committee of Corrispondence in the town of Western.

JOSIAH PUTNAM,
JOHN PATRICK,
DANFORTH KEYES,
REUBEN READ,
Selectmen of Western.

The foregoing is a true copy

Attest JOSIAH PUTNAM Town Clerk.

The condition of the Continental army at Valley Forge during the memorable winter of 1777–78 marks one of the saddest periods in the great

contest. The march of the army in the month of December was attended by untold suffering. The tracks of blood upon the snow and ice bore witness to the absence of coverings for the feet. The soldiers, tattered and half-naked, were unfitted for service by hunger and cold. The hospitals were crowded, and relieved only by death. In February, 1778, four thousand of the troops lacked clothing to enable them to perform duty. It was then, under the shadow of the darkest hour of the conflict, that the people of this town met in town meeting, and, in language pathetic, on February 26, 1778: —

"Voted to do something for the relief of our distrest breethering that have gone into the Continantal army againts our enemy."

"Voted to purchase a pair of shoes, a pair of stockings and a shirt for each Continantal soldier that have gone from amongst us which are nineteen in number also two dollars in money."

Colonel Danforth Keyes was chosen to forward said clothing and money.

As the war progressed, the difficulties attending the filling of the calls for men became intensified. The rapid depreciation of the paper currency so freely issued retarded the work of enlistment. Town meetings were frequent, bounties increased, and appeals urged that the demands made upon the town should be honored.

The subjoined action of a meeting held on January 29, 1780, makes vivid the exertions put forth to comply with the requisitions for additional recruits for the army: —

"Voted to give some incourredgment to the solders that we now want to fill the army. Voted that this town will give to each solder that will ingage for this town as one of our, quoto for three years or during war to fil our Continantiel army according to the order of Court for the purpose, three hundred silver dollars or produce of the land, or stock, such as cattle, sheep, &c &c &c, or paper money to the value of said silver dollars as they pass now among ous. Voted that one hundred dollars shall be pade to each solder as above before he marches oft to camp, and one other hundred dollars to be pade in one year after and the other hundred dollars to be pade at the end of three years. Voted to ajoin the meeting to Landlord Cutlers next Monday at twelve of the clock at noon, and that the wholl town training Bands and all should be warned to meet at the aforesaid time & place. Then met according to an ajoinment February ye 5 1780. Voted to ajoin this meeting for half an our to see if the men wonte turn out and then meet at this place, which accordingly was done. Then put to vote wheather we would give any more higher than has been offered before to the solders we now want, pased in the negative. Voted to rase one third of the mony that the town has promised to give the solders as a higher that we now want. Voted to give the six months men that went out last summer ninty dubble. Then this meeting was dismissed."

The summons to our early fathers has been faithfully obeyed; they have shown to us the record of their earnest lives, — how they organized

a town, built a meeting-house, settled a minister, provided for the education of the children, and, above all, with what devotion they espoused the cause of liberty.

The inestimable value to the town and to history of these interesting records, which time will not permit me to review further, prompts me to venture the hope that at no distant day a small appropriation will meet with the unanimous approval of the people in town meeting assembled to provide for the printing of the first volume of the town records.

The successful close of the great struggle for independence was everywhere greeted with rejoicings by the people. In Massachusetts the joy was for a time clouded by the outbreak of discontent and rebellion, from which this town was not exempt.

The grievances of the people arose from the great burden of public and private indebtedness growing out of the protracted war of the Revolution, and the almost worthless paper currency.

The towns were in debt for supplies furnished their soldiers, while the State had incurred a war debt of more than six and a half millions of dollars, and, in addition, owed its officers and soldiers one and a quarter millions of dollars.

Conventions called to consider the proper means of relief from the burdens under which the people

suffered gave an opportunity for demagogues to promote discontent and win notoriety. An armed force of sixteen hundred men, under Daniel Shays, met with summary punishment, and the rebellion was soon over.

OTHER CALLS TO ARMS.

During the French and Indian War the town responded to the calls made for men, and Solomon Keyes and his son George were killed on the expedition to Lake George in 1753. In the War of 1812 the town sent forward a company, which was returned by Governor Strong, its services not being required.

The dedication, on the recent anniversary of American Independence, of the beautiful granite memorial shaft on the village green, to commemorate the valor and patriotism of the soldiers of Warren during the war of the Rebellion, was made noteworthy by the attendance of a large number of the members of Grand Army Posts, and by the timely address of Colonel W. B. S. Hopkins of Worcester. The monument will stand as a part of the great contest for the perpetuity of the Union. Succeeding generations will read its inscriptions and be filled with gratitude for the sacrifices made and the glorious results achieved. The names of those who served in the war will ever be associated with that of the martyr President, Abraham

Lincoln; with him they share the unending fame of the most beneficent act of all ages — the freedom of four millions of slaves.

The "minute-men" of 1775 opened the way for liberty and independence, while the "boys in blue" of 1861 won for the American people a nobler nationality.

1791–1891.

Our New-England town, typical in its character and people, has in the first fifty years of its existence more than doubled its number of inhabitants, and opens the century with the people prosperous upon their farms and in their shops.

The manufactures of the town at this time consist of two grist-mills, one saw-mill, one scythe-shop, one fulling-mill, one forge, — using ore taken from the hill near at hand, — and the making of raw silk spun by silk-worms fed upon mulberry-trees grown in the town.

The growth and prosperity of the town are fairly shown by its population and valuation at different periods. At the time of the incorporation of the town there were embraced within its limits about 60 houses and 400 inhabitants.

In 1763 the number had increased to 579, with 92 houses and 100 families.

In 1776 the population was 827; in 1790, 899; in 1800, 979; in 1810, 1,014; in 1820, 1,112; in

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1830, 1,189; in 1840, 1,290; in 1850, 1,777; in 1860, 2,107; in 1870, 2,625; in 1880, 3,889; in 1890, 4,681.

The valuation of the town for the purposes of taxation has been: In 1790, $6,938; in 1840, $444,834; in 1890, $2,389,038.

What a wonderful growth do these figures show, from a hamlet of 400 inhabitants in 1741, to a busy, thriving town in 1890, containing 4,681 people, with industries upon every hand, with property bearing a taxable value of $2,389,038!

Observe how during this period the dependent colonies, with less than three millions of inhabitants, have grown to a great nation of forty-four free and independent States, with a population of sixty-three millions of people, having a foreign export trade of $884,000,000 and an import trade of $845,000,000. See the country covered with a network of 165,000 miles of railway with a capital of $9,300.000,000, and earning annually $1,070,000,000, or greater than the annual revenue of the Government of the United States, and requiring for its operation no less than 32,000 locomotives, 25,000 passenger and 1,100,000 freight cars. Again, observe the growth of the country as shown by the telegraph system of the principal company, with 700,000 miles of wire in operation, sufficient to girdle the earth twenty-eight times, and sending annually 56,000,000 messages and earning $22,500,000.

This rapid development of the material interests of the nation, attended by the great increase of wealth by individual ownership, is not without its dangers to the body politic. While it is true that capital is entitled to a fair return for its use, it is also true, in a higher degree even, that it bestows upon its possessor obligations which reach the most vital interests of the community, and which with safety cannot be ignored. Other dangers arise with the steady flow from the crowded populations of other lands, attracted hither by these great activities. While a welcome is extended to such as join in our citizenship, and, relieved from foreign allegiance, aid in carrying forward the work begun by the founders of the republic, the wisest statesmanship should be invoked to protect our free institutions from perils accompanying the presence of a people alien in their habits and obligations.

Much of interest has been published from time to time illustrating the history and progress of the material interests of the town.

In 1874 an interesting review of the town was published by your fellow-townsman, Rev. Olney I. Darling. The gazetteers of the State furnish valuable information, as do the histories of the county of Worcester. The first of these histories is that by Rev. Peter Whitney, published in 1790; this was followed in 1879 by a more elaborate publi-

cation, in which the record of this town was contributed by Mrs. Eunice P. Cutter. In 1889 a still more comprehensive history of the county was published, which contained a carefully prepared history of Warren by William T. Davis.

The meeting-house built by the fathers on yonder hill as a place of worship, and for holding meetings of the town, has given way to the commodious structure in which we meet to-day. Other churches, with different creeds, have been organized to aid the people in their aspirations to nobler and diviner lives. Schools of a high order take the place of that kept in the first rude building, with its Dutch chimney on each end. The homes of the people, once so plain, now betoken culture and prosperity. Marks Mountain and Coye's Hill, under the same blue sky as of yore, lift their heads in beauty over the town, shedding the rainfall adown their sloping fields into the river which winds its way so gracefully through the valley, aiding industries that line its shores and bring prosperity to the people. The early fathers with their minister sleep in the resting-place of the dead, leaving to succeeding generations examples of piety, industry, and patriotism, founded upon the principles of the Christian faith and an ardent love of country.

Fellow-citizens, ever cherish the sacrifices, piety, and intense love of liberty which animated the

founders of the town. Honor their memory by guarding with jealous care the civil government they here organized. Keep alive their spirit of devotion to public worship, founded on faith in God. Provide well for the public schools they established, for they are the sure basis of all that is highest and best in your civil and religious liberty.

Men and women of Warren, a century and a half has passed over this New-England town. A new period filled with bright visions opens before you. Guided by the principles which animated the founders of the town, a higher prosperity and civilization await you,

> "Such as earth saw never,
> Such as heaven stoops down to see."

The original poem, which was read by the author, Miss Nellie M. Comins, follows: —

The tides of life may bear us away
From the place of our birth, our home and kin;
Old ties may relax, new plans begin,
The distance widen every day;

But now and then our thoughts return
To happy memories of the years
Before we felt these later fears,
When life's great lessons were to learn.

So, of the friend who to our heart
Was nearest, truest, and best known,
We think and wonder that we've grown
In so few years so far apart.

And when his birthday comes, we long
  Again the well-known voice to hear
  That once rang true upon our ear;
We find the old ties still are strong.

We go to him, with him recall
  Our childhood's days, and all seem fair
  As landscape in October air:
The haze of time is over all.

But when a birthday comes to her, —
  Our mother-town, who years ago
  Saw all our youth, knows all we know
Of pleasures past in days that were, —

Her joy is ours: from near or far
  We come, to let our presence show
  We realize how much we owe
To her of all we have and are.

Whatever honor we have gained
  Is hers, as we are hers. We can
  But grant that from her care began
Whatever good we have attained.

You, friends, who see it first to-day,
  May praise the town for many charms, —
  The busy shops; the prosperous farms;
The fields o'er which the shadows play;

The stream which runs with ceaseless flow
  In winding curves or by the mills,
  Then, 'neath the shadow of the hills,
Its waters onward, westward, go.

The stranger who afar has seen
  Famed views of shore and frowning heights
  Says he has found no fairer sights
Than these, our hills and valleys green.

To beautify what nature gave,
  Man's hands have worked. The buildings rise
  As tokens of his enterprise, —
His love for learning — for the brave

Who died for us that we might be
  A nation pure and whole and sound,
  Who never-dying honor found,
Through death, to make their brothers free.

To those who knew her not of old
  We give the right to criticise
  Or praise the village, hear what lies
In future times for her foretold.

From us no blame nor praise can fall,
  No more than in its mother's face
  A child its charms for him can trace ;
She is our mother, that is all.

Not all our love goes out to him
  Who shares our joys. More oft we find
  That friend is dearest to our mind
Who helped us when our eyes were dim,

When loss was deepest, grief most new.
  So this thought brings her yet more near,
  And makes our mother-town more dear,
Because she knew our sorrow too.

For here the grass grows green above
  The graves of those who love us well,
  Of whom our tender thoughts can tell
That still their memory holds our love.

Somewhere, wherever they may be,
  We feel they do not love us less,
  But give an added tenderness
To us who strive while they are free.

How can we doubt that they are near?
If soul is more than time or space,
Why should they not to this dear place
Come back to-day, be with us here?

Here, too, to many a heart has come
The new birth and a larger life;
The power to feel in every strife
The hand of God still leading home.

While for our lives the seasons roll —
While He is ours, on to the last —
This place is hallowed, where have passed
The deepest moments of the soul.

By all these memories she is ours,
The town we love. Oh, bless her still,
Our Father's God! The future fill
With greater blessings, broader powers,

For her. And in that future, when
We see thy face, may others here
Still serve thee, strive to bring more near
Thy heavenly kingdom down to men.

At the close of the exercises at the church, the loan collection of relics and antiquities was again opened, surprising all visitors by its richness and variety, and exciting much attention and comment outside of the town. It was impossible to catalogue it, as it was brought together during two days before the celebration, and was only exhibited for three days afterward, before the relics were restored to their owners. A strong wish has been expressed for a permanent loan collection in Warren, which, it is hoped, in time may be established.

An approximate list of articles exhibited is included in this pamphlet, made up from the newspaper reports and replies from owners to a request for further description.

The dinner, furnished by Caterer F. A. Keith in the Town Hall, was entirely satisfactory, and had not progressed far before the rain ceased to fall, the clouds broke away, and the sun shone forth to the satisfaction of all, especially those who were interested in the concluding concert and fireworks. Flowers graced the tables. The dinner was enlivened by Messinger's Orchestra, and after came the feast of reason and flow of soul, presided over by Dr. Joseph W. Hastings. The toasts and persons responding are given in the account by "The Worcester Evening Gazette," which is included in this pamphlet. Many others who were present, including Mrs. Eliza Trask Hill, and her brother, George Trask, son and daughter of Rev. George Trask, a former pastor of the Warren Congregational Church, would gladly have been listened to as they recalled the interesting reminiscences of the past, and would have been called upon by the toastmaster, but the lateness of the hour, now nearly approaching five o'clock, made it seem wise to end a very enjoyable occasion, and the assembly broke up to meet more informally with the old friends who were so numerous upon the street and in the homes throughout the day.

At seven in the evening the West Warren Cornet Band discoursed sweet music at the Pavilion, and at eight o'clock a fine display of fireworks, from the laboratory of Masten & Wells of Boston, began on Holdworth's Hill, closing with a piece especially prepared for the occasion, displaying the name "Warren" and the dates "1741–1891."

A number of letters of regret were received from friends unable to be present, and these were read at a supplementary meeting afterward held at the Town Hall, at which time interesting and informal talks were given upon old landmarks, etc., by Dr. J. C. Cutter, Rev. O. I. Darling, Mr. M. K. Whipple, Mr. Cutler Moore, Mr. Henry Green, Dr. J. W. Hastings, Mr. E. Switzer, and others; the history of the churches, recent industries, etc., being spoken of. It was mentioned in the local paper, "The Warren Herald," that probably not another town in the State can show, as Warren can, four farms occupied by the descendants of their original owners; viz., those now occupied by William A. Patrick, John T. Combs, and C. N. Shepard, all adjoining in the eastern part of the town, and that of James T. Cutler on the Brimfield Road.

To this it may be added that the Captain Putnam Farm is one of the oldest in town. A few years intervening during which it was owned by others, it is now owned and occupied by his descendants,

the seventh generation living on it up to the present year. It joins the Keyes and Shepard farms.

The following facts regarding the early industries of Warren are kindly furnished by Danforth Keyes, Esq. The industries of the town of Western may be said to have commenced about the year 1746 by a dam put across the Quaboag River at its present location by S. Dwight Makepeace and Keyes; one grist-mill, erected on the present site; and one furnace, on the east side of the river on Wigwam Brook.

In 1752 the furnace was sold to Lyman & Kelley by Holmes, in 1770 sold by Holmes to Flood, in 1783 sold by Flood to Asa Keyes. Daniel and David Batcheller came into possession of the spot about 1803, and converted it into a scythe factory, and that took up the land where the Town House and Quaboag Block now stand. The Batchellers did a very large business for those days, taking into partnership one General Jack Warner, who afterward went to Greenwich and started the same business. Next the old shop is found in the hands of Rufus Bacon, who took it down and erected a satinet factory, which was carried away by water when the powder-mill dam gave way in 1837. Then the property came into the possession of Horatio Nichols, who erected a saw-mill; then into the ownership of Jepthah

Bacon, who sold it to Asahel Fairbank, whose son, Wilson H. Fairbank, now owns a portion of the land and the block; Homer A. Tidd the blacksmith and carriage shop; and the town the remainder for the present Town House. Mr. Daniel Batcheller, before-mentioned, filled many town offices from 1805 until his death, May 22, 1829, aged fifty-one years.

Two very interesting documents, owned by Mr. Keyes, are herewith subjoined. The names which appear upon this early division of the town into school districts are interesting, as showing so many names of original settlers.

To the inhabitanc of the Town of Western Gentlemen we the Subscribers being chosen a committee to devide said town into Six School Destricts have proceded as followers

The devison of the Town for Schooling in Six parts 1779.

District No. 1.

Rev. Isaac Jones.
Lem Bryant.
Hozek Marks.
Andrew Marks.
Samuel Bascom.
Isaac Meachem.
Daniel Willard.
Joseph Jones.
Medad Kellogg.
Moses Bascom.
Isaac Patrick.
Joseph Cutler.
Ely Putnam.
Samuel White.
William Marr.
Joseph Wheeler.
Josiah Chadwick.
John Gleason.
Seth Lincoln.
Major Makepeace.
John Crabtree.
Peter Rice.
Marthew Patrick.
Widow Dwight.
Danforth Keyes.

District No. 2.

William Blair.
John Blair.
John Patrick.
James Brown.
James Brown, Jr.
Solomon Blackmer.
David Blair.
William Cowel.
Daniel Wood.
Nicholes Roach.
Jason White.
Archabel Lemon.
James Stone.
John Brooks.
Henry Switcher.
Henry Chadwick.
John Mills.
James Mills.
Solomon Chandler.
Thomas Chandler.
Reubin Bliss.

District No. 3.

Samuel Mcalester.
Nathan Foster.
Elijah Lumbard.
Mathews Gilligan.
Henry Wilbridge.
Benjiman Pollard.
John McSwin.
Thomas Patrick.
Rheubin Read.
Major Read.
Samuel Bliss.
Ebenezer Cutler.
Pardon Blackemer.
Joseph Chandler.
Joseph Rude.
Samuel Willard.

District No. 4.

Solomon Bliss.
Isaac Bliss.
Moses Bliss.
Edward Bliss.
Samuel Tidd.
Isaac Gleason.
John Damon.
Oliver Cheney.
Isaac Cordin.
Jonothan Barrows.
Jonothan Day.
Peter Demon.
Aaron Bliss.
Joshua Herington.
Asahel Willard.

District No. 5.

Rev. Stephen Baxter.
John Nevens.
Simeon Blackemor.
Widow Brooks.
Solomon Sampson.
John Davis.
William Virgen.
Seth White.
Isaac Tyler.
Abner Tyler.
David Burroughs.
Joseph Gleason.
Elijah Arnold.
Thomas Rich.
Timeth Goodel.
Jeremiah Harwerd.
Luke Hitchcock.
John Hitchcock.
Ely Hitchcock.
George Hodges.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Josiah Putnam.	John Crofferd.
Josiah Putnam, Jr.	John Mccombs.
Robert Gray.	William Shepard.
Deuty Patrige.	Moses Shepard.
Frances Straton.	Caleb Brooks.
Simeon Rich.	Seth Lincoln, Jr.
John Brrus.	Solomon Rich.
Cyrus Rich.	Nathen Chadwick.
John Sanford.	Benjiman Crain.
Robert Blair.	

GERSHAM MAKEPEACE,	ISAAC BLISS,
THOMAS RICH,	JOSEPH CUTLER,
NATHEN FOSTER,	JOHN PATRICK,

Committee for said Town.

The withen School Destrits have been lade before the Town and excepted at May Meeting 17th 1779.

DANFORTH KEYES Cleark.

The following is a list of Representatives in the General Court, all from Warren: —

1780, 1782, 1784, Colonel James Stone; 1786, Isaac Gleason; 1789, Matthew Patrick; 1792, Danforth Keys; 1795, 1798, 1799, Reuben Read; 1800, 1801, Joseph Field; 1804, Danforth Keys; 1807, 1809, 1810, Joseph Field; 1811, Daniel Hodges; 1812, Joseph Field; 1813, Samuel Blair, Jr.; 1814, Josiah Putnam; 1815, 1816, 1819, Hervey Sessions; 1820, Samuel Blair; 1821, Oliver Bliss; 1825, Harvey Sessions; 1826, 1827, Isaac Patrick; 1828, 1829, Pardon Keys; 1830, 1831, 1832, Pardon Allen; 1833, 1834, Joseph Field; 1836, Chester Powers; 1837, 1838, Pardon Allen; 1839, John Moore; 1840, Thomas Damon; 1841, John Tyler; 1842, Aaron Bliss; 1843, 1844, Daniel A. Hathaway; 1845, Franklin Drury; 1846, Sullivan Cowee; 1848, Lewis Moore; 1852, Levi Merritt; 1855, Joseph Ramsdell, Jr.; 1856,

Samuel E. Blair; 1857, Joseph B. Lombard; 1879, Joseph Smith; 1881, George M. Newton; 1881, Lucien M. Gilbert; 1884, Joseph W. Hastings; 1886, Marcus Burroughs; 1889, George Bliss; 1889, John B. Gould.

The following were members of the State Senate: —

1857, Joseph F. Hitchcock; 1868, Lucius J. Knowles.

And of the State Executive Council: —

1865, 1866, Joseph F. Hitchcock.

Member of the Constitutional Convention: —

1853, Nathan Richardson.

The following table shows the recent increase in the town's valuation: —

1855, $850,284; 1861, $895,491; 1868, $1,409,971; 1869, $1,438,377; 1870, $1,447,254; 1871, $1,427,625; 1872, $1,502,914; 1874, $1,562,145; 1876, $1,975,419; 1878, $1,951,957; 1879, $1,917,457; 1880, $1,937,529; 1881, $2,051,191; 1882, $2,115,203; 1883, $2,226,240; 1884, $2,253,235; 1885, $2,221,973; 1886, $2,253,063.

The following shows the increase in the population of Warren: —

1776, 827; 1790, 899; 1800, 979; 1810, 1,014; 1820, 1,112; 1830, 1,189; 1840, 1,290; 1850, 1,777; 1860, 2,107; 1870, 2,625; 1880, 3,889; 1890, 4,681.

ERRATA.—The following were omitted from the list of Representatives in the General Court:—

1858, Samuel E. Blair; 1859, Nelson Carpenter; 1862, Lucius J. Knowles; 1865, Lucius J. Knowles; 1866, Nathan Richardson; 1868, Joseph B. Lombard; 1870, Benjamin A. Tripp; 1870, John Harvey Moore; 1873, Simeon H. Sibley; 1876, John Wetherbee.

LOAN COLLECTION.

A PARTIAL LIST OF ARTICLES EXHIBITED.

Mrs. Emma J. Fowler. — Work-table from Bombay, India, 100 years old; earthen caster, painted tumbler, cup and saucer, creamer, punch-bowl, knife, each 170 years old; two cups and saucers, two teaspoons, each 150 years old; tumbler, 100 years old; sun-fan, used before the introduction of sun-umbrellas; fan, 108 years old: carved fan; travelling-bag, 150 years old; sampler, 74 years old; silk dress, 80 years old; silk shawl; cape with hood: baby's shoes; gentlemen's stocks, 90 years old; coin, 1727; books, 1725–1789.

Mrs. Mary B. Carpenter. — Teaspoons, 150 years old; three pieces decorated china; mourning emblem for the Princess Charlotte.

D. W. Shepard, Esq. — Bible printed in 1659; vase, supposed to be 4,000 years old: Indian war-club; case of ancient pistols; sword used in the war of the Revolution; letter written to Captain Seth Alden in 1763; earrings owned by Mrs. F. W. Kimball, 100 years old.

Dr. W. H. Stowe, Palmer, Mass. — Pamphlets: —

Sermon preached at Crown Point at the Close of the Campaign, 1762. By Nathaniel Taylor, chaplain.

Self-Love: the first sermon preached in New England, 1621. By Robert Cushman.

A Sermon preached in Springfield December 13, 1770, at the Execution of William Shaw, of Palmer, for murder. By Moses Baldwin, A.M.

Account of a Hailstorm in Lebanon, Bozrah, and Franklin, July 13, 1799. By Sherman Dewey.

A Sermon preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian, at New Haven, September 2, 1772. By Samson Occum.

A Sermon preached at the Reverend Convention of

Congregational Pastors at Newport, R.I., September 18, 1771. By Solomon Townsend.

A Sermon preached at the Ordination of Rev. Warren Fay in Brimfield, November 2, 1808. By Samuel Austin, D.D.

A Sermon preached to the Natives of Warwickshire, Eng., November 20, 1675. By Thomas Willis, D.D.

A Sermon preached in Belchertown July 8, 1830. "Speculative Freemasonry a Wicked and Dangerous Combination." By David Pease.

A Sermon preached at the Funeral of Rev. Stephen Williams, D.D., of Springfield, June 12, 1792. By Robert Buck, A.M.

A Sermon delivered at North Haven December 11, 1783, on Account of the Peace concluded with Great Britain. By Benjamin Trumbull.

A Sermon delivered at Deerfield January 1, 1799, at the Opening of the Academy. By Rev. Joseph Lyman, A.M.

A Sermon preached in Long-Meadow at the Publick Fast, April 17, 1788. By Charles Backus, A.M.

A Funeral Sermon delivered in Lancaster March 31, 1765, on the Death of Mr. Sebastian Smith. By John Mellen, A.M.

A Discourse preached on the Fourth of July, 1798. By the Rev. Timothy Dwight, D.D., president of Yale College.

A Sermon on the Religious Education of Children, in the old Presbyterian Church, New York, 1788. By John Wetherspoon, D.D., president of Princeton College.

A Sermon delivered at the Annual Association of Baptist Ministers, met at Nottingham, Eng., June 2, 1784. By Andrew Fuller.

A Sermon preached at a Singing Lecture in Braintree May 21, 1788. By Ezra Weld, V.D.M.

A Discourse delivered on the National Fast, April 25, 1799. By Nathaniel Emmons, D.D., of Franklin.

A Sermon preached at the Ordination of Rev. Samuel Osgood in Springfield, January 25, 1809. By Thaddeus Mason Harris.

A Sermon delivered at Palmer September 4, 1814, before the Washington Benevolent Society. By Rev. Samuel Ware, of Ware.

A Sermon delivered at the Ordination of Rev. Ruben Moss, A.M., to the Church in Ware, June 22, 1792.

Facts are Stubborn Things; or, Nine Plain Questions to the People of Connecticut. By Simon Holdfast, 1803.

The Minister preaching his own Sermon. Deerfield, Mass., 1821.

The Dawn of Day, etc., in Nine Letters. 1800.

Trial of James Lackey and others for Kidnapping Captain William Morgan, 1827.

An Address to the Young People in the Western District of Fairfield County, December 11, 1799. By Amri Lewis.

Address to the Students of Monson Academy, October 4, 1814. By Joy Hamlet Fairchild.

A Reply to Mr. George Beckwith's Answer to Mr. Green's Sermon entitled "Christian Baptism." By Jacob Green, A.M., 1776.

The Massachusetts Watchman and Periodical Journal, No. 1, June, 1809, Palmer. Published by Ezekiel Terry. The first printing done in Palmer.

Some Arguments against Worldly-Mindedness. For Zadok, King of Conway, 1791.

Isaac Bickenstaff's Almanack, Springfield, 1784.

The same, 1794.

Nathaniel Ames's Almanack, 1761, Boston.

Astronomical Almanack, 1783. By N. S., Proff. in Yale College.

An Almanack by Edward Holyoke, of Harvard College, in New England, 1712.

The Farmer's Almanac. By Robert B. Thomas. No. 1, 1793.

An American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking, 1796. By Noah Webster, Jr., Esq.

New England Primer. For the letter K, instead of "Proud Korah's Troop," etc., this reads, "The British King," "Lost States Thirteen."

The History of the Holy Jesus Christ. For Children. By a Lover of their Precious Souls, Boston, 1774. This is all in verse, with very quaint illustrations, one being a picture of St. Paul.

Washington's Farewell Address. Printed for the Washington Benevolent Society, Springfield, 1812. With the badge worn by the order.

History of Clarissa Harlow. Philadelphia, 1791.

History of America. By Peter Heylin. With map. London, 1652.

Coffee mill in use in Stafford, Conn., hotel fifty years ago.

Sword brought from Algiers by General Eaton of Brimfield. Dated on both sides, 1744. Has Moorish mark.

Pewter mug, dated 1716.

An earthen baby's bath-tub decorated in blue. From H. H., and very old.

A picture of George Washington, printed October 4, 1791, at New Haven.

Button and two sizes of spoon moulds.

Wooden candlestick used by Humanity Lodge of Masons in Brimfield, 1811.

Wooden plate used by Moses Weld one hundred years ago. He was born in Sturbridge, 1757, and was great-grandfather of Dr. W. H. Stowe of Palmer.

Spanish coin, 1717; Spanish coin, 1738; pine-tree shilling, 1652; Moorish coin, 1279.

Mrs. E. P. Cutter and Dr. J. C. Cutter. — English chair, Queen Anne style, 1684; chair, 1768; teaspoon, Mayflower pattern, 1638; teaspoon, made from groom's knee and shoe buckles, 1768; teaspoon, wedding gift, 1805; bride's stocking-bag, embroidered in colored crewels, 1768; infant's baptismal cap, linen, 1771; infant's dress, 1819; sampler; deed of land on the summit of Coy's Hill, 1727; John Dearborn's powder-horn used at Ticonderoga, made in 1758; cannon-ball, hand-made, thrown by the Confederates at the Battle of Roanoke; cannon-ball made from types of "The Herald of Freedom," which was thrown into the Kansas River in 1855 during the sacking of Lawrence; field-glass used by Mrs. Cutter in Kansas, loaned to John Brown, and taken from him at Harper's Ferry (it was returned by Colonel Lewis Washington in exchange for the horse-pistols given by Lafayette to General Washington); specimen of red clay from which the Indians fashion their "pipes of peace;" pocket-compass that guided the escaped John Brown's men to the North.

Mrs. Ira White. — Plate, 150 years old.

Miss Maria Reed. — Platter, knife, and fork.

Mr. H. B. Carpenter. — Old coin found on Steerage Rock, Brimfield.

Miss Fannie J. Bemis. — Sampler.

Mr. Russell Gleason. — Wooden plate; wooden shovel and fork; wooden plough; broad-axe, 150 years old; pewter platter.

Mrs. Andrew Stone. — Two Bibles, 100 years old; two singing-books; work-bag; razor.

Mr. Newell Gleason. — Pewter platter; pewter porringer; pitcher owned by his grandmother.

Mrs. J. C. Freeman. — Chair, 150 years old; two wine-glasses; pitcher; decanter, 100 years old.

JOHN LAWRENCE. — Indian relics; bottle.

D. K. LINCOLN, WEST BROOKFIELD. — Several hundred Indian arrows, spears, and implements, from one of the finest private collections in the State.

MR. E. A. DAY. — The Marsh family Bible, 1775; the Putnam family Bible, 1795; cook-book; spelling-book, Nathan Day's, 1768; table and two chairs, four pewter platters, and a porringer, belonging to the wedding outfit of Mrs. Nathan Day, 1790; sword carried by Mr. Lyman Day when appointed captain of a company of militia by Governor Levi Lincoln in 1826; rapier belonging to Captain Josiah Putnam, 1780; stockings from flax raised, hatchelled, spun, and knit by members of the family; canteen used in War of 1812; lantern, 1780; almanacs, 1793–1891; silver tea service belonging to Mrs. Dolly Howe, 1814; ancient glassware, six pieces; silver spoons belonging to Mrs. Nathan Day, 1790; china saucer, 1784; warming-pan; two profiles, 1823; Indian relic.

MRS. A. L. CONVERSE. — Christening blanket, 110 years old.

MRS. H. E. SYLVESTER. — Chair 200 years old, Queen Elizabeth style; foot-stove; two pewter platters; two pewter plates; woollen blanket; three books; sampler.

MRS. E. A. WARRINER. — Pewter platter; pewter plates; pewter porringer; bed-linen spun and woven by Mrs. Eunice Allen, born in 1772; Book of Psalms, 1757; Book of Martyrs, 1659; bread-tray, brass candlesticks, each over 100 years old; sleeve buttons worn by Mr. Nathan Day in 1790; quart tumbler, 90 years old.

MR. A. A. WARRINER. — Canteen owned by Captain Josiah Putnam, 150 years old; snuffers and tray, 95 years old; foot-stove, 100 years old; winnowing sieve, 125 years old; dirk cane, 212 years old; bellows, 80 years old; coins; stockings worn with knee breeches by Captain

Putnam 120 years ago; chair, 125 years old; watch, chain, key, and seal, 75 years old.

Mrs. O. I. Darling. — Lady's slippers, child's rocking-chair, each more than 100 years old; antique waiter.

Mr. Danforth Keyes. — Oil portraits of Colonel and Mrs. Danforth Keyes, 1770; belt worn by Indian Chief Paugus, taken from him by Captain Solomon Keyes at Fryeburg, Me., 1752 (this belt is woven of gold thread); commissions, letters, and various documents pertaining to the early history of the town and the war of the Revolution; scales for weighing gold, brought from England in 1630; hatchel for silk, made in China, china coffee-pot, each 300 years old; platters and plates; specimens of silk and linen prepared for weaving; woollen bed-spread, more than 100 years old; remnants of Bible taken from Congregational Church in 1832 and mutilated.

Mr. William Burbank. — Flint-lock musket; two etched powder-horns carried by his ancestor, Ebenezer Burbank, in 1765; decorated plates.

Mr. H. H. Bennett. — Indian plummet; clock-reel; quill-wheel; pocket-book, over 100 years; spinning-wheel; calash.

Mr. C. H. Fosket. — Hatchel, smuggled over from Scotland in 1710; warming-pan; two pewter platters; one pewter plate; one wooden plate; spy-glass; tinder-box.

Mr. W. G. Butterworth. — Bugle, used by him in the first full brass band organized in Warren; Continental coins; note, $8.00, 1777; coins, 1723, 1774, 1788, 1809.

Mr. C. V. Stearns. — Flint-lock pistol; pewter porringer and spoon; flint-lock gun.

Mr. W. A. Stearns. — Spear point; tomahawk; flesher; pestle; chisel and fifteen arrow points.

Mrs. C. F. Keyes. — Mirror, 110 years old.

Mr. E. L. Fosket. — Flint-lock gun, carried in 1776 by Henry Switzer: flint and steel; cooper's axe, 150 years old; snow-shoes, 100 years old.

Mrs. E. F. Henshaw, West Brookfield. — Infant's cloak, worn in 1749; watch, 200 years old; sampler, wrought in 1806; towel made by Miss Anna Burroughs, 1757; towel made by Mrs. Margaret Burroughs Gleason, 1800; tumbler, 1809.

Bert S. Clark. — "Pepper Box," early revolver; two Indian arrow heads; two Confederate bills.

Miss E. S. and Mr. S. N. Cutler. — Books, 1743, 1744, 1813, 1821; five plates; two platters; two earthen teapots; two pitchers, 1691; sampler, 1815.

Mrs. Mary G. Hitchcock and Mr. D. G. Hitchcock. — Embroidered picture, wrought in 1803: two oil portraits of Joseph Field, Esq., and Mrs. Field, about 1770; embroidered picture, bandanna printed with the Declaration of Independence and portraits of the first three Presidents, each about 1805: part of tea service, teaspoons, and sugar-tongs owned by Mrs. Field; piece of brocaded silk dress worn by Mrs. Field; chair and table owned by Joseph Field, Esq.; table linen, a part of the wedding outfit of Mary Marsh about 80 years ago; silk gloves, belonging to Mary Marsh; decorated plate, formerly the property of the Governor of the Bahamas, more than 100 years old; piece of child's belt, 102 years old; white embroidered veil.

Mrs. Mary M. Richardson. — Hair puffs, bridal dress of white brocade silk, bridal veil, embroidered lace, worn by her mother, Mrs. John Moore; oil portraits, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Moore, about 1770; child's linen coat, embroidered in colored crewels; carved shell comb; fan.

Mrs. Mary Gilbert. —White silk shawl with colored figures; china plates; sun-bonnet.

Mrs. Sarah Powers. — Chair, 150 years old; paper

containing the account of the death of Washington; ancient Bible.

Mr. G. P. Aborn. — Collection of coins.

Mrs. W. C. Gage. — Two letters written from camp during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Lyman Crosby. — Portion of sermon in his great-grandfather's handwriting; cup and saucer.

Mr. Giles Blodgett. — Wallet, 200 years old.

Mrs. Maria Gilbert. — Bellows.

Mr. Lucien Gilbert. — Old doll and chair.

Mrs. G. A. Shumway. — Sun umbrella; doll; reticule; silver teaspoons, 1774, 1800.

Mrs. John Bridges. — Old doll and chair.

Dr. J. W. Hastings. —Cat-o'-nine-tails brought North from a negro cabin during the late war; bowie knife; documents pertaining to the War of the Rebellion.

Mr. Charles Washburn. — Foot-stove; tin kitchen; wheel.

Miss Maria Allen. — Antique china; shell comb; public documents.

Mr. C. S. Hitchcock. — Ancient town-meeting warrant, 1779.

Mrs. Haschal Powers. — Ancient deed.

Mr. H. M. Converse. — Tinder-box; army accoutrements; sampler.

Mr. H. P. Bliss. — Antique pitcher; basket brought from Sandwich Islands; conch shell, used to call the people to church before a bell was used on the Islands.

Dennis Town. — Blanket and blouse; ancient powder horn.

Mr. William Combs. — Silk dress, Colonial period, pale green brocade, lined with light yellow; satin dress, same age, pale blue, lined with pink silk; dress of brown brocade.

Miss S. C. Keyes. — Coins; brass andirons.

Mrs. Mercy Bliss. — Coins.

Mr. John Wetherbee. — Coins.

Miss Sallie Tufts, Brookfield, Mass. — Marriage contract between Elisha Allis of Hatfield and Sarah Cutler of Western, January, 14, 1765; candelabrum, 155 years old; mirror, 126 years old.

Mrs. E. J. Buck. — Hand-woven linen; ancient music and school books; "Ulster County Gazette," black bordered, containing the death of Washington.

Mr. Albert Rice. — Chair, formerly owned by General Ruggles of Hardwick, who was banished during the war of the Revolution, and his goods confiscated.

Mr. H. B. Smith. — Ancient chair; link sleeve-buttons; copy-book.

Mrs. M. A. Blair. — Embroidered veil; portrait of Mr. Shepard Blair.

Mrs. Olive M. Gould. — Oil portrait of Rev. Stephen Baxter; reel.

Mr. Lyman Powers. — Belt and sword.

Mr. Warriner Bliss. — Bible and hymn-book; spectacles, very ancient.

Mrs. Susan Cutler. — Portrait of "Uncle Thomas Cutler."

Mrs. Lucy T. Gleason, Boston. — Wedding dress of Mrs. Stephen Gleason, worn 90 years ago. This dress is of pearl-white crape, trimmed with narrow satin ribbon.

Mrs. Cowee, West Brookfield. — Quart tumbler used when General Washington dined there on his way to Boston.

Miss Lida Hitchcock.—Two decorated plates; papers printed at the South during the war; war souvenirs.

Mr. Nathan Moore. — Toasting iron.

Mr. D. E. Graves. — Ancient warming-pan, now converted into a clock.

APPENDIX.

1741 - WARREN. - 1891

SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN THE RAIN. — THE EXERCISES TO-DAY. — MANY OUT-OF-TOWN PEOPLE PRESENT. — THE POEM AND HYMN. — INTERESTING LOAN COLLECTION OF RELICS.

[*From "The Worcester Evening Gazette," Monday, September 7, 1891.*]

TO-DAY the town of Warren is observing, in a varied and appropriate manner, although the storm has prevented the carrying out of the programme to the letter, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation as a separate municipality of the Commonwealth. The territory within its limits constituted, before the Act of its incorporation, portions of the town of Brookfield in Worcester County, and of Brimfield and Palmer in Hampden County; but by far the largest part of the area taken for the formation of the new town was from Brookfield, and the traditions and associations of its earliest times pertain and belong to the history of the last-named town. From the date of its incorporation until 1834 the town was called Western, but the similarity of the name to Weston in Middlesex County led to a change of name, and by a special Act of the Legislature in the above-named year it was called Warren, in honor of General Joseph Warren, the Revolutionary patriot and hero of Bunker Hill.

The history of Warren is replete with notable and interesting events. It was fortunate in the character and ability of its pioneer settlers, and these and their

sons performed valiant service in the French and Indian wars and in the Revolutionary contest. The descendants of these in many instances are now living upon the homestead farms, and the names of the original signers to the petition for incorporation are frequent and familiar ones to-day. The first settled farm within the present limits of the town is still owned by a direct descendant, Mr. Danforth Keyes, whose ancestor, the original pioneer Solomon Keyes, was with a son killed at Lake George in 1755 while fighting the French and Indians. Twenty years before this the senior Keyes had participated in the battle between the colonists and the combined French and Indians where is now Fryeburg, Me. In 1759 Lord Amherst with ten thousand men encamped within the town while on the expedition to Crown Point, and in 1798 Washington and suite tarried for a while there when on their journey to Boston.

While the interest in the public observance of the day is not so general or enthusiastic as one would naturally expect or look for, still scores of its absent sons and daughters have returned to participate in the pleasure incident to the proceedings, and people from the surrounding towns are present to share with their neighbors the joys of the celebration. At an early hour the bells proclaimed the dawn of the natal day, and soon all was astir in holiday attire.

The preliminary steps towards the celebration were taken at the last annual meeting of the town, and at this a general Committee of Arrangements selected, with its members consisting of Mr. Harlan P. Bliss, Rev. Olney I. Darling, Rev. David Moyes, Rev. Putnam Webber, and Mr. Charles O. Walker.

The Committee of Arrangements perfected the organization with the choice of Mr. Bliss as Chairman, and Rev. Mr. Darling as Secretary. It also appointed the following sub-committees: Music, Herbert A. Messinger, Charles O. Walker, Miss Ella M. Wentworth; Printing,

Daniel G. Hitchcock, George P. Aborn, Mrs. Lottie Demond; Relics and Antiquities, Mrs. Julia M. Hitchcock, Mrs. Mary M. Richardson, Mrs. Ida C. Marsh, Mr. Herbert B. Carpenter, Mr. Charles D. Keyes, Mr. J. Edward Lombard; Decorations, Mr. Henry S. Howe, Mr. George L. Butler, Mr. William S. Tisdale, Mrs. Maude N. Aborn.

The committee selected Hon. Solomon B. Stebbins, a native of Warren, now of Boston, where he has long been prominent in its affairs, to deliver the historical address, and Miss Nellie M. Comins of Warren to read the anniversary poem. Miss Comins is a recent graduate of Smith College, Northampton, and has been engaged to teach in the High School in Amherst.

The programme printed for distribution is a genuine work of art. It is enclosed within a folder on the first page of which are grouped six vignettes. The central one of them is the Warren Town Hall. Above this is the beautiful Soldiers' Monument dedicated last Fourth of July. A summer scene on the Quaboag River and the Public Library building are on the left of the group, while the High School building and the famous Washington Elm are upon the right. It was a happy and commendable thought that first suggested the idea of these vignettes, and Warren is fortunate in the possession of such subjects for the artist. The Public Library building is beautiful in its architecture and pleasing in the combination of the materials which enter into its construction, as it is built of mottled pink granite with brownstone trimmings. The High School and Town Hall buildings are of brick, and both are models in every respect. The Soldiers' Monument, a granite and bronze statue of a soldier at parade rest, is of a chaste and pleasing design. The scene on the Quaboag represents one of those stretches of the stream typical of it where its waters run deep and slow; and in the picture two men in a boat have anchored, presumably to try

their luck at fishing. The famous Washington Elm stands near the residence of Mrs. Olive M. Gould. Beneath its branches, so the story goes, Washington halted while a glass of water from a near-by well was brought to him, and this circumstance gives the tree its name.

The address of Hon. Mr. Stebbins was an admirable one, and its words were heard by an appreciative audience. The singing, under the direction of Mr. Herbert A. Messinger, was eminently satisfactory. Miss Comins's poem found a responsive chord in the hearts of her hearers, and she and her work are unreservedly commended.

The dinner in the Town Hall was served by Caterer F. A. Keith of Warren.

Dr. J. W. Hastings was toastmaster, and an ideal one at that. The toasts and the persons responding follow: —

"Our State," Senator Haggerty. "Our Flag," Colonel S. C. Warriner, Springfield. "Old Landmarks," Rev. O. I. Darling. "Old Quaboag Seminary," Rev. Dr. H. J. Patrick, West Newton, a native of Warren. Reminiscences of Warren, three sentiments: First, "The Past," Hon. George K. Tufts, New Braintree; second, "The Present," Charles H. Walker, Warren; third, "The Future," Rev. Harris G. Hale, Warren. "Reminiscences," Judge M. L. Gray of St. Louis. "The Ladies," Daniel G. Hitchcock.

Among the visitors are, George K. Trask, commercial editor of "The Indianapolis Journal;" and Mrs. E. Trask Hill, editor of "The Voice," Boston; son and daughter of Rev. George Trask, the anti-tobacco apostle, once pastor of a Warren church.

The floral decorations in the church were not elaborate, yet artistic and in good taste. Wild flowers were used almost exclusively.

By far the most unique, novel, and conspicuous feature of the celebration, other than the exercises in the church,

is the loan exhibition of relics and antiquities. The number of old families now living upon the territory of which Warren was once a portion, makes such an exhibition possible, for the exhibitors are from portions of West Brookfield, Brimfield, and Palmer: but the great majority of the articles are owned locally. That an exhibit so extensive, varied, and valuable could be made within so small a territory is a surprise to every one, resident as well as visitor. The collection is shown in the hall of the local Grand Army Post, and during the hours of its exhibition the hall has been crowded with visitors. The committee in charge has yielded to the public desire, and the exhibition will continue open at stated hours for four days.

The collection gives in a manner an interesting and succinct history of the town and the industrial and social life of the people; and it likewise tells, briefly yet forcibly, of the families that have lived in Warren and their descendants.

The collection includes many Indian relics found in and about Warren, for in this section the Quaboag tribe of Indians had their headquarters. Articles used in Colonial and Revolutionary times are also numerous.

WARREN'S ANNIVERSARY.

[*From "The Springfield Union," September 7, 1891.*]

The celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Warren is an event of more than local significance. The State at large is interested; for each township is a nucleus of government, a centre from which radiate the primary forces that are potent in our State and National institutions. It

is, therefore, a matter of general rather than local interest that is to-day being celebrated at Warren. The town from small beginnings has grown to large achievements. Its industries have prospered and developed. Its institutions have kept pace with its commercial thrift and enterprise, and the people have received the benefits of school, library, and church, becoming fitted thereby to perform intelligently the duties of citizenship, and to fill creditably such positions in private station or public trust as have been assigned to each.

It is fitting, then, that Warren's anniversary should be recognized and celebrated. The effects of such a celebration are healthful. A feeling of local pride is excited by the rehearsal of incident and history connected with the town's past, and the immediate results of this pride will doubtless be apparent in a new impetus to enterprise, and in directing the public attention to chances for further improvement. Public spirit in a town is a power for good, and in no way can it be more successfully aroused than by such demonstrations and exercises as are being held at Warren to-day. The event will prove a valuable one also for a further reason. It has necessitated the careful study of town records, and the collection of historical data that might have been lost but for the attention called to them by the needs of this occasion. It is important now that all the records and history which have been thus brought to light should be carefully preserved in the archives of the town. They will prove increasingly interesting on future occasions of a similar nature, and will be of priceless worth to the coming historian.

"The Union" extends congratulations to the citizens of Warren, with the expression of this wish, — that the town's future history may be characterized by the same thrift and prosperity that have marked its past.

[*From "The Springfield Republican," September 8, 1891.*]

The town of Warren, which celebrated yesterday so successfully the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation as a separate township, has every reason to feel proud of its history and of the men who made it. The story of this interesting occasion is elsewhere fully told. The founders of the town were of that sturdy class of pioneer farmers who all over New England laid the foundations of our present prosperity. The records of Warren show how active a part every one of the early settlers took in the civil and religious life of the community, for then Church and State were one. Their record in the early contests with the Indians, and later in the great struggle for independence, shows, too, their readiness to fight, and, as many of Warren's best men did, die, if need came, in defence of their homes and that which was dearer, their rights. Nor should all credit be yielded to the soldiers; for the men who, after the early and later years of war, steadily labored on their farms and in their shops contributed quite as much to make the town one of the prosperous manufacturing centres of the State. A celebration such as yesterday's does much to awaken the feelings of local pride and patriotism which are apt to become dormant. Many an inhabitant of Warren was surprised to learn what a history belonged to his town, and every one felt prouder than before that he was a citizen of the place. Any thing which stimulates the people of a town to study its history must be beneficial, for they can hardly fail to draw inspiration from the story of the lives of the early settlers which will help them to be better citizens.

LETTERS OF REGRET FROM INVITED GUESTS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
BOSTON, August 31, 1891.

Mr. H. P. BLISS, WARREN, MASS.

My Dear Sir: — I find, very much to my regret, that it is quite impossible for me to reach Warren on September 7th. Two other important engagements were made for me long since for that day, — one in the morning in Boston, and one in the afternoon at Northampton, — both of which will prevent my attendance. I greatly regret this, as it would have been a great pleasure to me to come to Warren on this anniversary, and to extend to her the congratulations of the Commonwealth upon the successful, upright, and honorable life she has led, and her best wishes that the future may bring to her only greater honor and success.

Kindly express to the Committee and citizens my great appreciation of their kindness in inviting me, and my very sincere regrets that I am unable to be with them.

Very truly yours,

WM. E. RUSSELL.

PITTSFIELD, September 4, 1891.

Dear Sir: — Please accept my thanks for a kind invitation to be present as the guest of the town of Warren on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation on the 7th instant. I have delayed my reply till the last moment, in the hope that it might be possible for me to enjoy the rare pleasure so interesting an occasion will surely afford, but I regret to find that engagements I must keep will prevent.

Permit me to congratulate the town of Warren on the good that a hundred and fifty years of self-government has brought

to her people, and the share that government has had in maintaining the high character of the Commonwealth of which she forms a part. The inestimable blessings of town government, such as New England alone of all the States enjoys, can never be measured or over-valued. That government, like a never-failing spring on the mountain-side, feeds and refreshes and supports the sources of all our growth. When the town parliament shall die out, the State will surely fail. I wish for your people that they will ever keep this home government clean and earnest, with high aims and noble purposes, and the best attainable results will be the legacy bequeathed to those who shall be called upon in coming anniversaries to celebrate the glories of your civil institutions.

I am truly yours,

H. L. DAWES.

D. G. Hitchcock, Esq.,
Chairman, etc., Warren.

West Winsted, Conn., August 24, 1891.

D. E. Graves, Warren, Mass.

The invitation of your Committee to the anniversary exercises to occur on September 7th next was duly received, and is highly appreciated.

I have delayed replying, hoping that my mother would feel able to go and enjoy with me the festivities: but she thinks that she had better not. She proudly claims to be a native of, and is still loyal to, the good old town of "Western."

If we are not with you personally, we shall be in spirit, on that day.

Praying for good weather, and knowing that the citizens will take care of the rest, I wish you a celebration without a mar.

Respectfully,

Wm. H. BATCHELLER.

Committee of Invitation, Warren, Mass.

Your card of invitation to attend the "one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Warren, Mass.," to be observed September 7, 1891, is before me.

While I regret to say that, owing to other duties, it will be impossible for me to be present on that interesting occasion, I do assure you that my heart and my sympathies will be with you in all the congratulations of the present, the anticipations for the future, and the reminiscences of the past, which such an event must awaken.

I am well aware that, after an absence of so many years from my native town, few of the forms and faces once familiar to me will be present at the greeting. Some are in distant lands, engaged in the varied pursuits of life; many, very many, have passed over the river, and there on the other shore await our coming. Joyful as such a gathering is sure to be, it must still be tinged with sadness. The ever-restless hand of Time has been among you, and all is changed, — all but the eternal rocks and the everlasting hills. One hundred and fifty years! What have they not wrought! The triumphs of science are most marvellous; the triumphs of civil and religious liberty surpass the most sanguine expectations of the world; and in all this march of improvement New England has held a most conspicuous and leading place.

And Massachusetts, God bless her! the royal mother of glorious New England, she walks a queen among her more than twoscore States. The leaven of her civilization, with its churches and schools and colleges, her free institutions, and the patriotism of her sons, permeates and moulds the citizenship of our whole country. God bless old Warren, nestling, as she does, amid her mountains and her valleys and along her winding stream; planted, geographically as well as providentially, so near the warm and throbbing heart of that grand old Commonwealth we all so proudly claim as our native State.

May her sons and her daughters, sustained by the arm of Omnipotence, prove loyal to her best interests, and true to the sacred traditions of the worthy fathers and mothers whose ashes lie mingling with the clods of the hillside, and the fruits of whose labors we now enjoy, and whose virtues we hold in deepest reverence. With best of wishes,

I am an absent son of Warren,

JOHN H. COMBS.

Haines City, Florida, August 24, 1891.

West Hartford, Conn., September 2, 1891.

To the Committee on Invitations.

Gentlemen: — I had hoped that in response to your kind invitation I should be present on the occurrence of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the good old town of Warren, and thus testify to my interest in her continued prosperity, and my pleasant memories of the years when I was a resident of the town; but it now seems probable that circumstances beyond my control will necessitate my absence.

Trusting that the occasion will be in every way interesting and gladsome, even beyond my anticipations, I am

Yours sincerely,

E. L. JAGGAR.

La Fayette, Ind., September 4, 1891.

The card bearing date August 10, 1891, from Committee on Invitations, for the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Warren, Mass., was duly received. I sincerely regret that the ill-health incident to "threescore years and ten" will prevent me from participating in exercises or festivities demanding so long a journey. It would be a great pleasure to clasp the hand and reciprocate the greetings of the few early friends remaining.

I well remember that early in the year 1841, Rev. George Trask, then pastor of the Congregational Church in Warren, tried to induce the people to notice the *centennial*, but no *enthusiasm* was shown; but the march of improvements during the past five decades will far surpass the former century. With sympathy and a hearty wish for its success,

Respectfully yours,

C. L. (Copeland) HOWARD.

133 East 29th Street,
New York, August 31, 1891.

Dear Mr. Hitchcock: — I regret exceedingly that my duties in New York are such that it will be impossible for me

to accept the kind invitation of your Committee, and attend the exercises of Warren's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

It would give me great pleasure to be present and listen to the most excellent programme arranged for that memorable occasion. Rest assured I shall be with you in spirit, and I trust nothing will occur to mar the joy of a day so noteworthy in the annals of the town.

I regard the citizens of Warren as very fortunate in having their lot cast in so pleasant a place, possessing so many natural advantages of soil, water-power, and climate. More than all, the town is to be congratulated upon having so large a number of public-spirited citizens, evidences of whose generosity are to be seen on every hand. To their enterprise is largely due the fact, that, while many of our New-England towns are deteriorating in wealth and population, Warren has had a steady, prosperous growth, until it is known far and near as one of the most flourishing towns in Massachusetts.

There is no need, however, that I write of these things. Your orator will outline the growth and development of his native town; your poetess will sing in charming lays the beauty of its situation and the heroic deeds of bygone days; while the dinner will doubtless be graced with the intelligence, wit, and beauty of your citizens. My wish for Warren, where I spent seven of the happiest years of my life, is, that she may continue to go on in the lines already laid down, and be as distinguished in the future for the intelligence, sobriety, patriotism, and piety of her citizens as she has been in the past, and is in the present.

May the Lord bless and prosper the dear old town, is the wish of your friend,

JESSE F. FORBES.

WORCESTER, September 4, 1891.

D. G. HITCHCOCK, Esq., WARREN.

Dear Sir: — I regret very much I shall be unable to accept your kind invitation for Monday next, but absence from this part of the country will prevent. I trust the day will be a joy-

ful one for you all, and hope the next century and a half will be full of blessings for your beautiful town.

I have been away for the past few days, so please pardon my not answering your favor before.

Yours very respectfully,

GEO. F. BLAKE, JR.

THE GEO. F. BLAKE MFG. CO.,
NEW YORK, August 27, 1891.

D. G. HITCHCOCK,
Chairman of Committee, Warren, Mass.

Dear Sir: — I am in receipt of your favor extending to me an invitation to be present at the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Warren to be held on the 7th of September. Owing to press of business and other previous engagements, I shall have to decline your kind invitation, for which please accept my thanks.

Yours very truly,

GEO. H. STOVER.

NEW YORK, August 26, 1891.

D. G. HITCHCOCK, Esq.,
Chairman of Committee, Warren, Mass.

Dear Sir: — Thanks for your kind invitation to be present at the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Warren on September 7th next.

I regret that other engagements will prevent my accepting your kindness.

Very truly yours,

C. E. BIGELOW.

KNOWLES STEAM PUMP WORKS,
NEW YORK, August 26, 1891.

D. G. HITCHCOCK, Esq.,
Chairman of Committee, Warren, Mass.

Dear Sir: — I am in receipt of your kind invitation to the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the

incorporation of the town of Warren. I am very sorry my engagements will not enable me to be present on this occasion, September 7, 1891.

Hoping you will have a pleasant day, and every thing will pass off successfully, I am

Very truly yours,

C. L. BROADBENT.

GARDNER, MASS., August 29, 1891.

D. E. GRAVES, Esq., WARREN, MASS.

Dear Sir: — Your kind invitation to be present at your coming anniversary is just at hand.

While it will be impossible for me to be present, yet I desire to thank you and the good town you represent for the courtesy of the invitation. My stay was not long among the Warren people, but the Methodist Church at the west village will attest my love and effort to aid all the good elements in the town.

I remain very sincerely,

SETH C. CARY.

Brief regrets at inability to be present were also expressed by Rev. Alexander Sessions.

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